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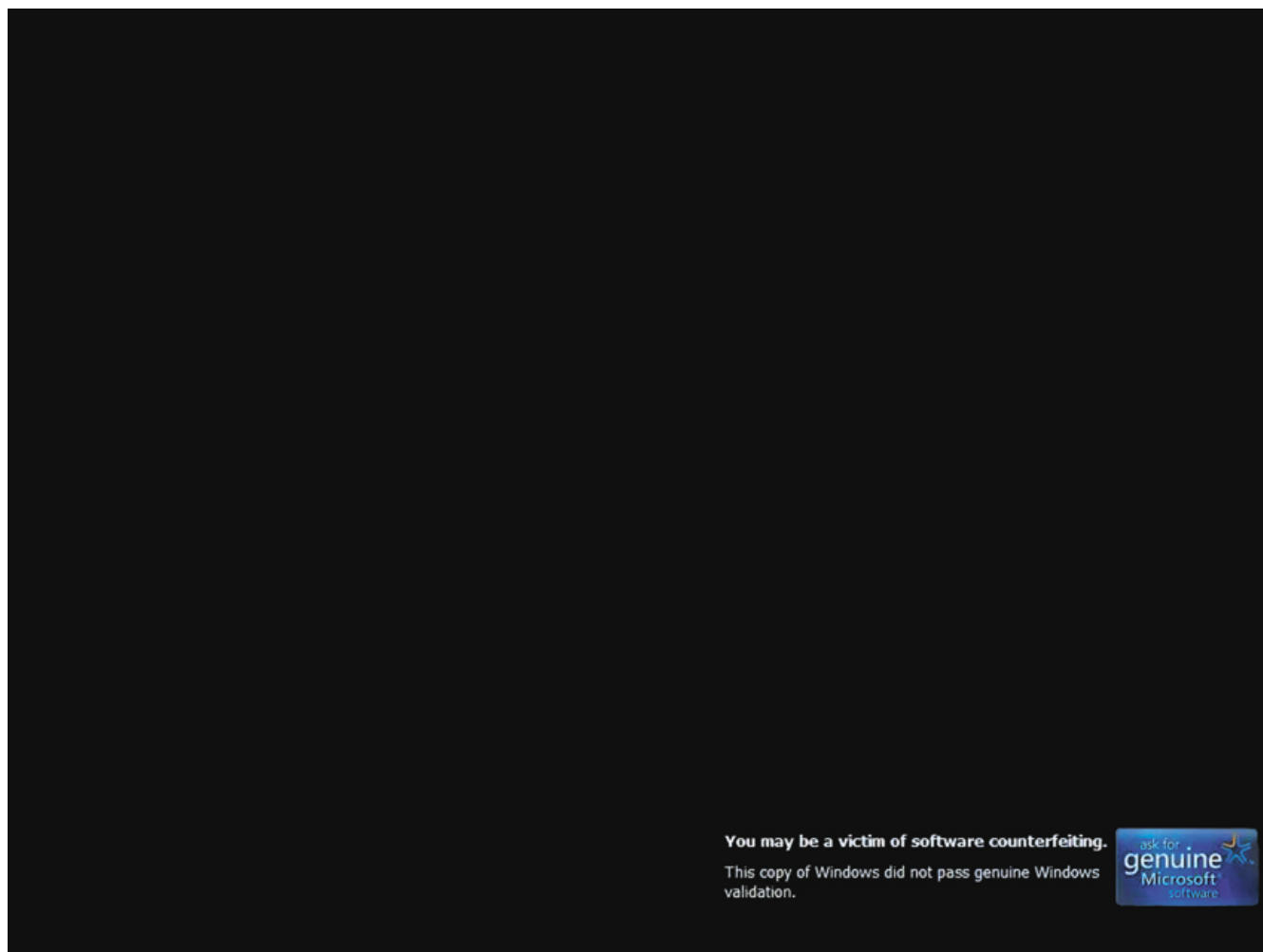


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Japanese man cycles for dreams



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Post-Olympic venue management still plagued with problems

By Jin Zhu

Since the end of the Beijing Olympics and Paralympics, many issues such as public visits to the former venues, environmental protection and venue management have gone unanswered.

The Cube's ticketing problem

Last Sunday, the Water Cube began to sell tickets to the public at its gate.

The ticketing center said tickets are sold to visitors for five scheduled periods of time. Each visitor can buy up to two tickets at a time, and the cube will distribute a maximum 20,000 tickets per day.

Before the gate ticketing system was launched, Water Cube tickets were sold at an office by the Beijing Worker's Stadium North Road. The location was heavily criticized as inconvenient. On October 15, the Water Cube moved its booking office to the Beitucheng railway station on line five. Selling halted within 30 minutes when huge crowds of buyers had to be dispersed by the police.

A ticketing agent in the Water Cube said the current system is a fumbling process. "We have had one failure after another. This time, we arranged with the police to have 300 security guards present to maintain order," she said.

Prefab treated as landfills

The prefab dwellings near the media hotel of Main Press Center, which received guests from all over the world, have turned into dumps. There were more than 20 sites where prefab dwellings were erected around the Olympic Park. Those sites have suffered from similar treatment.

At present, the demolition of the prefab units has been assigned to Honglianzhong, which provided the units for the Beijing Olympics. "It is hard to imagine they would end up such a dirty mess," a head



Huge crowds gather to buy tickets to the Cube.

CFP Photos



The Beijing Olympic Park has added 570 temporary toilets for visitors.

surnamed Huang, said.

"Someone passed by to throw out their garbage in the prefabs. Another person came by to rip out anything saleable inside, like steel and copper piping or metal blocks," he said.

Huang said demolition was

complete outside the Olympic Park. "Over the next few days, we will demolish the prefabs inside the park to further damage and loss," he said.

Management institution almost ready

The Beijing municipal govern-

ment approved the establishment of the Olympic Park Supervision and Administration Commission as a special management institution for the Park's further management. The commission will be entrusted by Chaoyang District with full responsibility for its management and operation.

"The Olympic Park has drawn huge crowds since it opened for free. Since then, illegal peddlers and garbage have been an ongoing issue," Cheng Lianyun, head of Chaoyang District, said, "The Olympic Park Supervision and Administration Commission will take charge of programming, construction, and management of the Olympic Park by the end of this year."

Cheng said further development of public zones in the Olympic Park will be focused on sport, art, exhibition, travel and business industry.

Public pessimistic about medical reforms

By Milo Lee

The much-anticipated plan for medical and health care reform went public on October 14. While the government said it wanted feedback, the sea of complex medical jargon and awkward wording have effectively locked out all but medical specialists from understanding it.

An online survey initiated by the *China Youth Daily* and Sina.com found a quarter of the respondents could not understand the 13,000-word document. Bai Yansong, a CCTV reporter, said in an interview that the plan was too academic, dry and hollow for the general public to grasp.

Duan Wei, a photographer working for a news magazine, said: "Even though I graduated from a top university, I can only understand half of what the draft plan said. It is rigid and ambiguous. Even if people want to say something about it, they can hardly find a point on which to comment."

The new plan is intended to guide all levels of government officials to draw up specific measures, Yu Zonghe, a senior hospital management expert and former department chief of Medical Reform, said. "If (the government) wanted practical public opinion, then it should have prepared a version that is comprehensible to the common man," he said.

A lot of people found the plan hard to understand, but more are concerned about the feasibility of the reform.

High drug prices are one of the most unsettling aspects. The plan to set up a basic drug system was to be a highlight of this reform. In the online survey, 62 percent of the respondents wanted a national drug system that would include designated production centers, direct dispatch and fixed medication prices.

But 60 percent of the respondents were cautious about whether the plan would solve the "hard and expensive to see doctors" problem that has lingered in China for years.

Another 60 percent of the respondents said the reform should focus on reinforcement of supervision and hospital audits.

The plan has been amended many times the last two years as controversy after controversy broke. The revised draft was highly anticipated, but optimism has faded since it went public. Only 12 percent of the respondents polled said the reform had any chance to succeed, according to the survey.

CFA says World Cup not coming to China any time soon

By Venus Lee

While the Chinese Football Association (CFA) would like to host the World Cup, no plans for a cup are currently underway, Dong Hua, a spokesman for the association, said. His announcement contradicts earlier media reports.

The rumor that Beijing would bid for the World Cup was touched off by a sport official's speech on how to develop the country's sports industry and utilize its recently built stadiums.

"Bidding is not as simple as just raising the suggestion. Qualified countries must pro-

vide eight cities and 10 stadiums to host the events in accordance with FIFA regulations, so the procedures are complicated and we have more to study before we can apply," he said.

Sun Kanglin, chief director of the Beijing Sport Bureau, said in a meeting that Beijing would strive to promote the city as an international sports center and would make great efforts to bid for coming international sporting events. Beijing will bid for the highest-level single event games such as the World Cup, the World Table Tennis Championships, Triathlon World Cham-

pionships and the Men's World Basketball Tournament, he said. The city will also introduce NBA, NFL, A1 GP World Cup of Motorsport and the International Football Tournament.

"Although Beijing held the Olympic Games and can undertake other world-class sporting events ... the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Sports has no authority to present a bid application for the World Cup. A bid is the CFA's business, and only it can decide which city is qualified to host the event. Our only current bid is for the 2014 FIBA (International Basketball Association) World Championship," Meng Weiming, an official from the

Beijing Bureau of Sports, said.

FIBA President Bob Elphinston, and FIBA Secretary General and IOC member Patrick Baumann met Tuesday with the Minister of the General Sports Administration, officials of the Beijing Bureau of Sports and the Chinese Basketball Association to discuss the status of Beijing's 2014 bid for the men's games. Government representatives and Guo Jinglong, mayor of Beijing, announced they had approved the plan for the bid and prepared the necessary financial guarantees, which will be handed to FIBA on December 5.

Artist wins appeal in first Songzhuang housing lawsuit

By Zhang Dongya

The Tongzhou Court ruled on the first of the Songzhuang village housing dispute cases on Monday. Songzhuang villager Ma Haitao was ordered to pay 185,000 yuan in damages to artist Li Yulan to regain control of his house.

Six years ago, Li bought Ma's house in Xindian Village for 45,000 yuan. The house had a floor space of 400 square meters, a living area of 100 square meters and a 375-square-meter courtyard.

Since the house prices rose over the last few years, Ma decided to take back his house.

Under present law, rural housing is only allowed to be used for building houses and it can only be bought and sold between villagers. A ruling last July declared the contract between Li and Ma invalid, and Li was to be paid 93,808 yuan to move out.

Since the appeal, neither the villager nor the artist have taken further steps. "This ruling was a big step. However, it's still better for me not to move out, since Songzhuang is an important place for us artists," Li Yulan said in an interview with the *Beijing Youth Daily*.

Though the villager remained unsatisfied, he did not pay com-

pensation. "For villagers, it is not easy to take out such a large sum of money," Rao Yunfeng, legal adviser of the Songzhuang Art Promotion Association and the lawyer of Xie Jinlong Law Office, said.

As many as 13 artists in Songzhuang have been sued over housing disputes since 2006. Li's case was the first heard in the court. The courtroom that day was crowded with artists and villagers involved in similar housing disputes who were preparing their own cases.

"Under the current law, it is hard to find a way to resolve housing disputes in Songzhuang.

For the people who are already involved, they have to negotiate and come to a settlement on their own," Rao said. Anyone else considering a move to Songzhuang should do so with caution, he said.

Since the mid-1990s, about 1,500 artists, art dealers and collectors have settled down in the villages of Songzhuang Township. The first group of artists in Songzhuang bought houses from the villagers in 1994. Among these 1,500 artists, almost 200 bought the houses, and the others rented. Today, Songzhuang is known as one of the largest artist communities in the country.

Skin cream caused of baby's early period

By Milo Lee

An eight-month-old girl from Changsha, Hunan Province, was diagnosed with pseudomenstruation caused by a popular skin cream, a local paper reported this week.

Her mother, Liang Hongyan, found a reddish discharge on the child's diaper and took her to the hospital. Doctors said the medical condition was caused by an overdose of hormones. The hormones came from Miaoling Jiefushuang, a medicinal cream marketed to treat baby rash and eczema, Xiaoxiang Chenbao, based in Changsha, reported.

The cream has been blamed for causing early development of the sexual organs and may cause collapse of the hip joint, or Legg-Calve-Perthes syndrome, a condition seen most often in children.

The cream, produced by Guizhou Qindongnanzhou Miaolin Medicinal Technology, has been popular for its "herbal ingredients" and ability to provide quick relief. However, laboratory tests conducted by Guizhou Normal University's Analyzing and Testing Center found no trace of the herbs listed in the cream's ingredients. Instead, they found the steroid clobetasol propionate in high concentrations.

Clobetasol propionate is used to treat various skin disorders. However, it can cause pregnant women to bear children with birth defects, according to a study by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Reported side effects of Miaoling Jiefushuang on newborns never appeared in official test results, but more and more parents have reported problems. Many children have developed dependent dermatitis, a skin condition where rash or eczema reappears whenever the child discontinues using the cream.

The health and drug administrations of many Chinese cities are looking into the case. After the story broke, the manufacturing company stopped production and ordered an emergency recall of the cream. As of Wednesday afternoon, no medical cases involving Miaoling Jiefushuang have been reported in Beijing and drug stores have returned their stocks to the manufacturer.

Though this medical incident only recently became public, reports that Miaoling Jiefushuang contained hormones date back to early 2006 when Guizhou Normal University's Analyzing and Testing Center first discovered clobetasol propionate in the cream. The discovery was ignored by local authorities.

Miaolin Medicinal Technology said the report was false and that the company had been framed by rival businesses. However, in a letter the company sent to the *Dahe Daily* of Henan Province, it claimed clobetasol propionate had been added to the medicine without its permission by a resentful company executive who had a personal dispute with the company.

Fat girls' club teams up for shows



Six women who weigh 100 kilograms each got together in Zhengzhou, Henan Province, to form the performing group Feifei Yishutuan. Feifei, one of the women and the organizer, said her idea was to gather girls who weigh over 80 kilograms and guys who weigh over 120 kilograms.

CFP Photo

Chairman's grandson to head Maoism dept

By Han Manman

Mao Xinyu, grandson of the great helmsman, plans to establish a Maoism department at Songtian College in Guangzhou.

His plan is supported by the privately funded college. Qin Juanying, the vice dean, said enrolment is expected to open next year if the plan is approved by the Ministry of Education and the Department of Education of Guangdong Province.

A compulsory course "An Overview of Maoism" has been part of the Chinese university curricu-

lum for years out of respect for the chairman, but the establishment of a dedicated department presided over by Mao Zedong's own grandson is a new development.

Mao said if the course is a success, he will expand nationwide. He said his grandfather's theories are important to learn and cover a range of fields from politics to management.

"Young people should learn more about the history of the Communist Party of China, so as to better understand the devel-

opment of our mother country," Mao said in a lecture last Friday in Guangzhou.

Currently the vice-director of the war theory and strategic research department of the China Liberation Army Academy of Military Science, Mao said that his mother, General Shao Hua, who passed away earlier this year, hoped China could have a learning institution that specialized in Maoism.

Mao said he hopes the department in Songtian College will be a successful model for

other universities.

However, some doubt whether such a theory-specific department can attract students, and whether these students will be able to use their majors after graduation.

Qin said the curriculum will combine Maoism with modern economic study as well as social construction.

"I don't think it will be hard for a Maoism major to find a job," Qin said, "Some students will specialize in research and the rest may go into management."

Does the Beijing-Tianjin express railway really make the trip easier?

By Wang Yu

The express railway connecting Beijing and Tianjin was seen as the start of China's high-speed railway network. The carriages of the new trains have comfortable seats and the good on-train service may attract passengers for a first trip. But these frills alone do not make a trip convenient: problems remain with the support system just outside the station.



The waiting room is always crowded on weekends and holidays.

CFP Photos

Cyber brokers fill in the gaps

Many passengers have reported finding it difficult to buy tickets to the express railway. The tickets are different from normal train tickets, which locks normal booking offices out of the sales loop. Passengers must go to one of the three main railway stations in Beijing to buy the high-speed ticket.

One Web site has picked up on the business opportunity. Xianxian Wang (xixi.cn) started its new online booking service for express railway tickets on October 18. It is well known for selling air tickets at a steep discount.

"The tickets will be sent to our clients by the express delivery company with which we cooperate," Chen Zhen, Xianxian's marketing director, said. There are two ways to pay: direct money transfer from an online bank or Alipay, an online payment service akin to Ebay's PayPal.

"We have also negotiated with China Mobile to allow passengers to pay via cell phone and pick up their tickets at the station," Chen added. This service is not currently available.

Xianxian sold 100 tickets its first day, and the Web site owners hope the number will reach 1,000. But the relationship between the Web site and the railway department is murky, and a company employee said they had been phoned by the Ministry of Railways and told not to talk to the media.

Fast does not equal convenient

The express railway took its first passengers on August 1, a week before the Beijing Olympics. The new station was a hot spot for many travelers during the National Day holiday, when people wanted to ride the nation's fastest train. The passenger flow spiked to 33,000 people per day. Many went to photograph the new stations in both the cities.

But things are different for daily commuters.

The departure station moved to Beijing Southern Station, at the boundary of Xuanwu, Chongwen and Fengtai districts. Bai Yu, an employee in a PR company whose family is in Tianjin, said she has an easy ride between the two cities. "But since I live at Dawang Lu, getting from my home to the station is a chore. I have to change subway lines several times and then switch to a bus if I choose public transportation. So sometimes I take taxi, and that's obviously expensive."

The nearest subway station is Liujiia Yao on Line 5. From there, passengers have to take bus 652 to get to South Station. The route from the bus stop to the station is always crowded, especially on weekends. "I wish the subway line would go on past the railway station just like before. The off-train trip through the city is a draining experience," said Wu Wenbo, the editor of a press house in Tianjin, who travels frequently between the two cities.

Even before the express railway began operation, many newspa-

pers forecast it would change Tianjin's real estate market. Housing prices in Beijing are much higher than in Tianjin, and a faster inter-city express railway would make it possible to live in Tianjin and work in the capital. Today the real estate market is grappling with a global economic crisis, and people still have to spend at least 2.5 hours in transit between the two cities during rush hour. Most importantly, the price of a ticket is staggeringly high compared to the average salary.

A second class one-way ticket is 58 yuan, or 2,320 yuan a month if commuting every day and adding in subway and other connection fees. Many single-room apartments in Beijing can be found for less. The time is another waste of resources and energy. Furthermore, the high ticket prices drive younger customers to take slower trains like 4405 or 4406. These take two hours for the journey but only cost 19 yuan.

Contrast with Japan's rail system

Tokyo is famous for its high cost of living, so many Japanese workers choose to live in the capital's satellite cities and commute to work by train every day. A comparatively developed rail system makes it possible.

The Japanese capital has a population of 12 million and over 4 million cars, but most know driving is out of the question, since few companies have parking places and roadside parking costs 1,000 yen (70 yuan) per hour. "The most popular method of transport here is the electric



The railway station is modern, but hard to reach.



Japan's electric train network is well developed.

train," Luo Yun, a systems engineer in Tokyo, said.

The price of train tickets in Japan is also high. "I used to live in the south of Saitama and work in Tokyo. As I am a permanent employee, my company reimburses my traffic fees of 20,000 to 40,000 yen per month," Luo said. The Tokyo trains are all managed by different companies, and transferring lines can be costly when that includes transferring operators.

People can travel Tokyo on

capital circle, a line which connects Tokyo to its nearby cities. From that line, an underground transfer can connect passengers to almost anywhere. "Electric trains run exactly on schedule. It is easy for passengers to calculate the time they spend on their commute and plan the best timing," Luo said.

If a train is late or an accident happens, other lines step in to solve the problem. Passengers also can check traffic conditions from their cell phones to save time.

The rise of guns in China

In a nation that both bans guns and celebrates them, armed criminals and hunters pose new problems for authorities.

(Wall Street Journal) – China's weapons laws are among the world's toughest. Its blanket ban on private ownership of rifles, pistols and even gun replicas is a core tenet of social policy. Still, a gun culture is taking hold.

China may be freer from gun crime than many nations, and official statistics show overall crime on a continuous down trend. Yet, these days, reports about gun crimes turn up as often as several times a week. The reports are often brief, without much follow-up as cases progress. Still, the splashy gunfights, murders, gun-factory raids and smuggling busts that get reported contrast with China's zero-tolerance stance on guns, and point to changes in criminals' behavior.

But the trend is about more than crime. Guns are now fashionable in paintings and movies, while Chinese-language Web sites and glossy magazines cater to gun buffs. And legal shooting clubs in cities let customers fire away at targets for a fee. Bored with golfing, some affluent businessmen slip into the countryside for hunts.

Even as China's government seeks to keep guns off the street, and shields its massive gun-manufacturing business behind state-secrets laws, it helps stoke the public imagination about guns. Schoolchildren learn to salute the flag shouldering imitation rifles, while Xinhua celebrates the heroism of military and athletic marksmanship.

With guns often hard to buy, some criminals forge them instead. Late last year, Shanghai police responded to a call about a robbery in progress at a gritty scrap yard. According to a police spokesman, officers spotted a man fleeing the scene and yelled "freeze," but he pulled a crude homemade pistol from a bag.

The government lauds marksmanship enough to give freshmen college students basic training in it. Shooting produced a national hero for China in 1984, when Xu Haifeng became the country's first Olympic gold medalist by winning the 50-meter pistol event in Los Angeles.

Beijing's support for the sport has helped spur a rise of hobby enthusiasts. The government has sanctioned businesses such as the Shanghai East Shooting Club, a former bomb shelter where customers can have a drink and fire a variety of weapons. Owner Zhang Jiwei says his clients are looking to relax.

But increasingly, gun fans are gaining access to guns – and hunting illegally. In rural Anhui Province last year, a group of wealthy businessmen, gun-club owners and former army officers



Police in the southwestern municipality of Chongqing destroyed illegally owned guns this week. CFP Photos

organized wild-fowl shoots. Feasting on game cooked in a spicy brown sauce, one of them toasted, "Guns have brought us together."

Official stance on gun control

China will maintain strict controls on guns, said Ministry of Public Security spokesman Wu Heping during a recent news release.

Wu said strict gun controls had helped China avoid a US-style gun culture, and the US rampage had proved it is necessary to maintain this policy.

US media reported that more than 30,000 people die from gunshot wounds in the country annually and it has more guns in private hands than in any other country.

In China, however, gun crime is rare, as private citizens are forbidden to own or sell guns.

Wu said the ban aims to wipe out potential danger and protect the safety of every individual. "If there's no access to the weapon, people cannot commit a gun crime," he said.

But despite strict controls, illegal guns and explosives are still traded in China. Statistics from the ministry show that more than



Local authorities inspect fake weapons in Shanghai.

Voice

History shows that excessive gun control will only feed a black market, with criminals being the ones getting the guns. Being freer from gun crime leads to lower crime rate.

– Douglas Johnson, US
I'd prefer a more peaceful world, which is why I would stick with the strict policy, even if it puts me at an incrementally greater risk. If you've been reading Chinese news for some time, you'll know that gun control works if strictly applied.

– Roberto Chen, editor, China
For gun controls, different countries have different

methods. I think America's system works for America, and so the Chinese system does for China.

I don't know why people are complaining about America's gun laws. Remember: "Guns don't kill people. People kill people."

– Jeff Bass, teacher, US
Economic growth may lead to a change in this regard. Regulation can be more open-minded in the future, to accommodate those, a growing number in China it seems, that may want to own guns for purposes other than criminal.

– Mark Parris, UK

3.8 million illegal weapons have been confiscated in recent years.

High profits are deemed the biggest attraction for people who trade guns, although those found guilty of selling guns or explosives face punishments ranging from three years in jail to death.

"Each gun may generate profits of up to 3,000 yuan," the public security ministry spokesman said in an earlier interview, "The money is a huge temptation."

Gun control in China was introduced in 1966, after a 12-year-old boy aimed a Spanish rifle at sparrows near Tiananmen Square and shot out a window in the Great Hall of the People, according to the technology channel at CCTV.

The government imposed the current rules in 1996, forbidding the private manufacture, sale, transport, possession, import or export of bullets and guns, including replicas.

Possession of a single gun is grounds for a prison sentence of as long as three years, and the penalty for a gun crime often is execution.

Gun controls abroad

Whether or not the government should strictly control guns has always been a heated debate both home and abroad. The result also varies among countries who

have established gun controls.

In 1997, just 12 months after a new gun law went into effect in Australia, homicides jumped 3.2 percent, armed robberies 44 percent and assaults 8.6 percent.

In Switzerland, every draft-age male is required to maintain a firearm in his home, yet the Swiss murder rate is only 15 percent of the US rate. An added benefit is that no foreign enemy has invaded Switzerland in centuries. Israel, which has the most heavily armed populace, has a negligible crime rate.

England has the strictest gun-control laws of all developed nations and outlawed all handguns and most firearms.

But the record of strict gun regulations in other countries is quite dismal. In 1929, the Soviet Union established gun control. From 1929 to 1953, about 20 million dissidents were rounded up and exterminated.

Germany established gun control in 1938. And from 1939 to 1945 13 million Jews and others were exterminated.

Guatemala established gun control in 1964, and from 1964 to 1981, 100,000 Mayan Indians were exterminated.

Uganda established gun control in the 1970s – from 1971 to 1979, 300,000 people were exterminated.

(By Huang Daohen)

Slowing growth highlights need for domestic demand

By Huang Daohen

Is China's economy on the verge of a serious slowdown? The Monday announcement of a staggering drop in growth rate in the third quarter is calling into question the hopes that the country can act as an anchor in the current global financial crisis.

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said the year-on-year GDP growth in the third quarter dropped to 9 percent, the lowest point in the last five years. And for the first nine months of the year, the economy expanded by 9.7 percent.

Before the official release, the consensus forecast among analysts had been 10 percent. Recent years have seen China's economy boom, and double-digit growth has become the norm. Last year, the economy expanded by 11.9 percent.

The fear is that the slowing down will undermine hopes that China can take over as the growth engine for a global economy battered by financial crisis, Zhao Xiao, an economics professor at the University of Science and Technology Beijing, said.

Zhao said that with CPI (consumer price index) and PPI (producer price index) both dropping, the government has decided to support the economy by loosening inflation controls.

In recent months, investment and consumption in the real estate, automobile and steel industries all declined. The local and central government are trying to react to this change. A package of economic support plans is planned for release.

Recently, regional governments' policies to prop up local real estate markets have been tacitly approved by the central government. To boost the real estate market, the State Council also reduced housing transaction taxes and fees starting November 1.

Whether the government will reduce taxes or increase government investment may be the next issue to watch for, Zhao said.

However, the professor noted that any new policies should be different from those in play between 1999 and 2003, which focused on infrastructure construction and led to production capacity surplus. Instead, they should work to stimulate internal demand and consumption, since the present overseas economic situation will not bottom out any time soon.

"If China is to become an engine of global growth, it will have to switch its economy from one led by export production to one led by domestic demand," Zhao said, "and there is way to go before it is realized."



Hejun Group has closed two factories last week, laying off 6,500 workers.

CFP Photo

External effects

Closed factories keep workers waiting for pay

By Annie Wei

More factories in the Zhujiang triangle, the notorious world-factory region, are facing bankruptcy. Workers and suppliers are suffering from unpaid salaries and disappearing factory owners and management executives.

Nanfang Daily reported Monday that employees and suppliers of Behringer, a Shenzhen factory, said the company owned them 50 million yuan.

A workers' representative said many workers had to start another job to make a living since September. However, what made them mad was that executives did not inform them or pay their salary since October 8, when the factory stopped running.

Hejun Group, one of the largest original equipment manufacturers (OEM) of toys, has closed two factories and laid off 6,500 workers, the newspaper reported last week.

The two factories to be closed were in Zhangmutou County, Dongguan, Guangdong Province. Staff found out about the closure from a notice on an Internet bulletin board which read, "To Hejun factory staff: The Hejun factories have closed due to operational difficulties."

Thousands of workers went on a strike in the street. Guangdong TV stations reported that the local government agreed to subsidize their losses.

The Zhangmutou County government formed a special working group to help solve the unpaid wage issues.

Workers at the Hejun factories stuck to demand back wages for the last three months. They were given their August paychecks on the same day, but September and October wages remain unpaid.

Most workers hoped the government could pay them full their salary, and local government is now dealing with the issue, *Nanfang Daily* reported.

Chao Gang, director of the School of International Business Administration at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, said OEMs have been hit hardest by the financial crisis.

A recent industry report pointed out that the toy industry has been hit by rising raw material and wage costs, the rise of the yuan and the increasing difficulty of raising capital. Safety scandals have also increased the cost of safety inspections. All these factors have contributed to the failure of many Chinese toy businesses.

Tony Yeh, the owner of a game-machine factory in Shenzhen, said small factories depending on European and American orders have suffered worst.

"In this economy, everyone's business is getting hit hard," he said, but admitted it was a good chance for the industry to reorganize.

"I never hear about these kinds of problems in big factories like Foxconn or Huawei," Yeh said. Small and private factories who loosely adhere to labor laws and who tend to make illegal profits on the side will be wiped out in this crisis.

Make it easier to buy homes

(Reuters) – The Ministry of Finance on Wednesday announced a series of policy changes that will make it easier for people to buy their first homes, fleshing out a directive approved last week by the cabinet.

The government has been seeking to support the economy and provide more help for those on lower incomes in both the

countryside and cities.

From November 1, the property deed tax will decline to 1 percent from 1.5 percent for people buying their first home if it is smaller than 90 square meters, the ministry said in a statement on its web site.

For those buying their first home, regardless of the size, the down payment requirement will be lowered to 20 percent from 30 percent, and banks will be allowed to charge as little as 70 percent of benchmark lending rates for such mortgages.

"(We need to) step up investment to safeguard people's living conditions and improve the lives of people with low incomes," the ministry said in its statement.

It also removed the 0.05 percent stamp tax and land value-added tax for home purchases.

Export rebates raised

(XFN-ASIA) – The government will raise export rebates on textiles, toys and apparel and some other products, the Ministry of Finance and the State Administration of Taxation said in a joint statement.

It said a total of 3,486 products, involving labor-intensive and value-added items, will benefit from the move.

Export rebates on these goods will rise to between 5 and 17 percent after the hike, which takes effect November 1.

The rebate on textiles, toys and apparel will be raised to 14 percent.

Export-oriented companies, especially small and medium-sized labor-intensive firms, had seen their earnings decrease sharply due to falling overseas demand, the rising yuan and the surging costs of raw material and labor, the statement noted.

"The move will help ease operating pressure and enhance their competitiveness," it said.

Wal-Mart steps up product quality

(Reuters) – US retail giant Wal-Mart said Wednesday it would step up efforts to ensure the quality of products it sources, including in China, where the melamine milk scandal again highlighted weak standards.

"Today, we're asking suppliers to take those standards to an even higher level," Wal-Mart Vice Chairman Mike Duke told a conference in Beijing.

"We will require greater transparency and ownership from our supplier partners."

Wal-Mart will begin the move towards improved transparency in November with apparel, gradually expanding it to other product categories in a process expected to be completed by end-2009.

"It will mean that if you sell us tennis shoes, we expect you to know – and we expect you to tell us – not just where the tennis shoes were assembled, but which subcontractors played a role in making them," he said.

Wal-Mart would also require its Chinese suppliers to clearly demonstrate that they were complying with the nation's environmental laws and regulations, he said.

China is Swiss watchmaker's top market

By He Jianwei

"Although the Chinese mainland watch market for Blancpain is not mature, I still believe it is our largest market. The big mainland market has pushed Hong Kong down to number two," Ander Meier, vice president for sales of Blancpain, the world's oldest watch brand, said Tuesday morning.

Since 2001, the Swiss luxury brand has opened as many as 30 boutiques in 20 cities on the Chinese mainland. Blancpain has held second place in China ever since the move.

When Blancpain entered the Chinese mainland, it devoted little money to advertisement. The boutiques were its only way to promote Blancpain products.

Meier said the largest market is not so much China as Chinese. "For example, Los Angeles has a big Chinese community. We are successful in the area," he said.

He said his company's success in China boils down to three points: "If you want to enter the Chinese market, especially in luxury goods, I believe you must be patient at first. Then consistent and lastly persistent."

It takes time to train local workers, not only in professional skills, but also in the need to make customers aware of company culture.

Cooperation with local cultural activities is another way Blancpain plans to expand in the market. "Yesterday, we donated a unique watch to The Palace Museum. It was the first time that the museum accepted a watch made in modern times," he said.

In China, Blancpain's customer base comes from people aged 30 to 70. It produced 13,000 watches this year, 15 percent of which were sold here.

Dark mood over MS's black screen

By Wang Yu

Microsoft's new anti-piracy strategy clearly does not have many fans. It has caused anger and panic among users of pirated versions of its Windows XP operating system.

Microsoft announced last week it would spread its Windows Genuine Advantage (WGA) and Office Genuine Advantage (OGA) verification program in China beginning October 20. Patches will be installed in the users' computers through the Windows Update process, and users of pirated copies will be detected. The screens of computers using unlicensed versions will turn black every hour and a frame will also pop up to say: You may be a victim of software counterfeiting.

Dong Zhengwei, a lawyer at Zhongyin Law Office, has lodged a formal report about this at China's Ministry of Public Security and suggested investigating the software giant's latest measures. According to the *Beijing Times*, Dong said that Microsoft's action will infringe on users' right to privacy and threaten Internet security. The lawyer also said this will cause computers to operate abnormally, potentially causing information leakage.

Calls made to Dong at his law firm were not returned, and the secretary refused to answer questions.

Based on Chinese law, if one party disrupts the normal functioning of another's computer by altering its operating system, he will be guilty of misconduct. If one has not turned off Windows Automatic Updates, the verification software will be installed without asking the user's permission, which makes its action similar to that of a virus.

Most Chinese computer owners use pirated versions of Microsoft's products, including corporations that are afraid of facing lawsuits and paying hundreds of thousands of yuan in compensation. The software giant said it will not charge users based on data collected through its WGA



Microsoft has been targeting unlicensed users in China with the black screen since Tuesday.

CFP Photo

and OGA's month-and-a-half-long project.

Since Microsoft started its business in China in 1992, most Chinese computers have been installed with unlicensed versions of its operating system because the price of a legitimate copy is too steep, and because the company's anti-piracy strategy had been more lenient. In August, through Microsoft's efforts, Chinese police cracked down on Tomato Garden, a Web site offering a modified version of Windows XP.

Amid the panic and anger, however, some Chinese netizens have regained a sense of humor. Some have created black wallpapers for their computer, seemingly to taunt Microsoft, with a line saying, "I may be a victim of piracy."

Comment

Find a new profit model

I think it's not good that Microsoft is making Chinese users mad with its anti-piracy strategy. We are now living in the Internet era and copyright laws may not be the only way to survive, so Microsoft should look for a new profit model to keep up with the times.

— He Yuxin, newspaper editor

Virtual nagging

It's sort of a weird concept — Microsoft is basically asking users to voluntarily subject themselves to torture by virtual nagging. And Chinese users, naturally, aren't

excited about it.

— Betsy Schiffman, *Wired* magazine

No excuse for piracy

No doubt Microsoft has a right to defend its copyright. Piracy however is more harmful to domestic software companies than overseas giants as the former are still trying to make their way up. But I think Microsoft's action was a bit of an overreaction; its new measure caused panic among many computer users.

— Wang Yibing, government official

Paving the way for Vista

Remember Vista, the

unsuccessful operating system which Microsoft spent five years developing? Because of consecutive problems with Vista, it's facing an unpromising situation while its latest Windows 7 is still in the lab. Microsoft definitely knows the battle with piracy in China is arduous work.

The problem couldn't be solved in the last 10 years and it won't get easier in the future. So I think Microsoft's action this time shows its intent to push some users to turn to Vista.

— Vincent Wen, network engineer

Debate of the week

Workers barred from upscale restrooms

By Zheng Lu

For a week now, some buildings in Sanlitun Village have posted notices outside their lavatories saying: "Construction workers are not allowed."

Many shops in these buildings have not yet opened and are installing fixtures, so there are many workers around. The village's estate management has told construction workers to use alternate washrooms, but since they can be a long walk, some of the laborers sneak into the ones in the building if they can.

The restrooms, which are exclusively for the building's clients, are spacious and even have two sofas. The toilets are closed in by high doors, the sinks have warm running water and there is air-conditioning with the remote control provided.

Most citizens who heard about the rules consider it discrimination. "It is unfair to forbid the workers from using the toilets we use just because they are dirty," said Mads Kastrup Olsen, a sales engineer, "We are all humans and we surely can use the same toilets."

Other people, however, think the regulation is reasonable. "I think it is a good way to keep the washrooms clean," said Huang Lu, a shopping guide, who works in the village. "Since the rule has been carried out, the washrooms have been much cleaner," she said. Huang said the workers "often leave the toilets unflushed" and "some of them even grab lots of toilet paper to take back home."

As of press time, the notices keeping workers out are still posted outside the restroom doors.

Too many don'ts for housemaids

By Zhang Dongya

The Home Service Association

of Shaanxi Province released new rules to regulate housemaids' behavior, dress and etiquette, the province's *Sanqin Daily* reported last weekend.

According to the rules, maids should maintain a neat appearance, be well-behaved at work and speak Mandarin. They are not allowed to dress in tight or skimpy clothes, wear heavy make-up or paint their nails. When talking to employers, maids should look at them kindly and without glancing around, and before entering the bedroom, they should first knock on the door.

Although the home service association said the rules were created for the household help's welfare, most people think the measures are discriminatory. "People have the right to wear what they like. It is not proper to put restrictions on maids," a commentator for *Yangcheng Evening News* said. A 24-year-old maid in Shaanxi said she felt angry at the rules. "I seldom

wear skimpy clothes at work, but I do like to put on some make-up. We know how to behave properly, and it is not necessary to shove that in our face with those rules," she said.

The hiring of household help in China is on the rise, and many problems are being encountered as the market expands. More rules and regulations are expected in order to standardize the industry, but some of the rules appear "ridiculous" and difficult to carry out.

Local officials embarrassed on TV

By Milo Lee

This is a scene people do not often get to see on television: on October 20, 25 department heads from Chongqing's Fengjie County were ordered by the local government to appear on television and explain to the county why they asked a substitute to attend a crucial meeting instead of showing up themselves.

The scene was broadcast on prime time local news. The department heads took turns apologizing to the public for their lack of discipline and defiance of government agenda. Each was given roughly 30 seconds to speak, and the whole episode lasted half an hour.

When asked why they let other people attend the meeting for them, one of the officials said they always had so many meetings to go to that it was very hard to be in two places at the same time. He said many of these meetings discuss things under someone else's area of expertise, and it would be better if that person came. The officials said they have grown weary of endless meetings, big and small.

But local residents cheered the local government for the apology. They were glued to the TV when the department heads appeared. One resident surnamed Wang said officials were supposed to be good examples, and that if they sent a substitute to the meeting, how can they do their job?

Japanese man fulfilling dream of cycling across China

By Han Manman

Fumio Togashi, a 40-year-old Japanese man, has been cycling across east China for a month to fulfill a dream he had as a teenager.

In 2001, Togashi saw a letter he wrote to himself at age 16, saying: "My dream: 2001 – a tour around Japan; 2002 – a tour around the world."

Togashi started his journey from Changchun on September 21 and cycled to Shenyang and Beijing. After leaving Beijing last weekend, he rode to Tianjin, Jinan, Nanjing and Suzhou, and is scheduled to end his two-month journey in Shanghai in mid of November.

During his China tour, he also hopes to reunite with Chinese friends who once studied in Japan. As an employee of the Japan Foundation, he met many Chinese high school students through the organization's international cultural exchange program.

"I want to see how they've been since they came back to China," Togashi said, adding he is happy that most of the students have done well, some even getting into Yale University in the US.

Togashi hopes that his adventure will help improve Japan's understanding of China. "A lot of

young people in Japan know little about China. I want to change their opinions," he said. "I will write a book on my China experience when I get back to Japan. I will tell the young Japanese people what the real China is like." He believes the improvement of relations between the two countries lies in the hands of the youth.

Before coming to China, Togashi posted his plans online in Chinese and received many comments from Chinese netizens. "I got many useful tips from Chinese friends, like where to find cheap hotels and what I should be careful of. I felt so touched," he said.

No stranger to travel, Togashi has been to more than 60 countries and has done a trip around the world. He has also hiked around Taiwan in 80 days, which earned him the label "Japan's Forest Gump" given by local media.

When he was 16, Togashi joined an event to write down his dreams in a letter, which would only be sent to him 16 years later. Finally in 2001, the postman delivered that letter to him. "I wrote down many dreams at that time and many have already come true, like traveling around the world and learning Chinese," he said.



Fumio Togashi's dream at age 16 was to tour around the world and learn Chinese. Twenty-four years later, he fulfilled his dreams.
Photo provided by Fumio Togashi



A suspect was being caught by the police. A passerby took the picture with his mobilephone.
Photo provided by Zhan Minghui

Foreign guy caught swindling through magic tricks

By Venus Lee

After rubbing transparent liquid on it, the black paper would turn into real money.

This was supposed to happen through magic, but fortunes are not made so easily.

Chen Long was cheated out of 39,000 yuan by two black men peddling the aforementioned trick. One of the suspects was caught Monday in the middle of another transaction with Chen.

Chen said the two black men approached him in Zhongguancun a week ago while he was hanging out with his girlfriend. The men introduced themselves as Steven and Lucky, brothers from the US and veteran soldiers of the Iraq War. The men reportedly said they had US\$3 million dollars, wanted to do business in Beijing and were

looking for a business partner. In order to escape the Chinese customs inspectors, however, the brothers employed someone to transport the money in a box, but they needed 39,000 yuan to pay the freight cost.

Chen bought their story hook line and sinker, and dreamed of instant wealth. He followed them to fetch the box and paid for the freight in an apartment near Liangmaqiao Nan Lu. When the box was opened, Chen saw it was filled with black paper the size of US dollar bills. Chen said lucky took out a bottle of transparent liquid and rubbed its contents on 11 randomly selected bills. Magic! The black paper changed into real US dollar.

Lucky reportedly Chen the pieces of black paper were spe-

cially processed and could only be turned into paper money using the liquid, which cost more than 20,000 yuan a bottle.

Chen began to think it was a scam, so he reported the incident to the police. On Monday afternoon, when Chen met with the men again inside a car at the parking lot of Hotel Kunlun, members of the Chaoyang Police swooped in on them. The authorities arrested one of the men, while the other managed to escape.

When asked by *Beijing Today* for a comment, the Chaoyang Police said the case remains under investigation. But the police added that "such kinds of fraud orchestrated by foreigners is common in Beijing. The criminals take advantage of their victims' greed."



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UN says China needs to reform food safety regulation

By Huang Daohen

China needs urgent reform in its food safety regulation and needs to build a more coherent regulatory system, the United Nations in China said Wednesday at the release of a UN paper recommending improvements to China's supervision over food safety.

"Food safety systems are always a work in progress, no matter what country you are talking about," Jorgen Schlundt, a World Health Organization (WHO) official, said at the media conference. "But there are certainly key areas where China can focus its improvement," added Schlundt, who is based at the WHO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

The paper came a day before the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress reviewed the draft law on the country's food safety, set out an in-

depth analysis of the food safety situation in China and put forward proposals for improving the system.

The UN report suggested establishing a more coherent regulatory system with unified laws and reliable information sharing. It added that the country needs a unified regulatory agency and a place where consumers can go for reliable information.

The report also outlined other key challenges for improvement, such as the need for enforcing management and supervisory responsibilities within the system; the need for education and training of a wide variety of stakeholders; and the improvement of standards to bring the country in line with international norms.

Referring to the recent scandal over melamine-tainted milk that has sickened tens of thousands of children, Schlundt said the cause may be attributed to poor

communication between authorities within the system.

"We see a disjointed system with dispersed authority between different ministries and agencies. The poor communication may have prolonged the outbreak with a late response," he said.

"We need to have a coherent system that covers the full farm-to-fork table," he added.

Tony Hazzard, a WHO adviser on food safety who presented the report, said the only way for China to rebuild international confidence now is to put in place an effective food control system from the farm to the table.

"We hope they (the Chinese government) do that. And overseas governments and consumers have to be confident that when a product is certified as safe from China's authorities, that it is safe," Hazzard said.

Traditional Medicine congress to be held in Beijing

By Han Manman

As the World Health Organization (WHO) celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, it acknowledges the 30th anniversary of the Alma-Ata Declaration, which called on WHO member-states to include traditional medicine in their primary healthcare systems.

To mark these significant events, WHO is holding a Congress on Traditional Medicine next month in Beijing.

The congress, from November 7 to 9, will focus on how to promote traditional medicine worldwide and how to meet the demands of primary healthcare in many developing countries, particularly in Asia and Africa.

Bai Huiliang, director of the China Non-prescription Medicines Association, said it is the first time WHO has held such an international conference.

"This is a special year for China because of the Beijing Olympics. WHO chose China not only because the world is turning its eyes to China, but also because of the history of traditional medicine in China," Bai said at a news conference Tuesday.

One of the most important topics of the three-day conference is how to promote "self-care" and "self-medication," which is means properly using nonprescription medicine without a doctor's instructions.

"The current Chinese medicine reform has started different kinds of debates. But they all focus on how to solve the problem of expensive medical care in China," Bai said. "We should have a change in mindset. We should think about how to avoid illness and how to protect ourselves."

Many developed countries, especially in Europe, encourage people to do self-medication if they are not seriously ill. "However, few Chinese people know how to properly self-medicate," Bai said.

On the last day of the Traditional Medicine congress, WHO will announce a 'Beijing Declaration' to promote to WHO member-states traditional medicine within their countries' healthcare system.

A series of symposia will be organized featuring topics like "Self-Care in Health Systems," "Medicine - Traditional, Alternative, and Complementary," "Acupuncture and Human Health" and "Manual Methods of Health Care."

The conference is expecting around 2,000 health officials and NGO members from more than 70 countries.

EU, China establish law school in Beijing

By Han Manman

After two years of preparation, the European Union (EU) and China yesterday launched the China-EU School of Law in Beijing to promote the understanding of each other's laws as they prepare for talks on expanding cooperation in trade, climate change, energy and other fields.

The law school, with European Commission (EC) funding totalling €17.5 million (153.5 million yuan), was launched to "improve the understanding of the Chinese legal profession of European and international law and will help European professionals, academics and students widen their knowledge of Chinese law," an EU statement said.

The 27-member country EU is China's biggest trading partner.

"My long-held hope of establishing the China-EU School of Law is finally realized," said Serge Abou, ambassador of the Delegation of the European Commission to China. Abou said he hopes the school

will become the best law school in China and in the world. Another joint project, the EU-China School of Business became the world's top business school in only 13 years, according to the EU statement.

The new school, located within the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPSL) in Changping district, began its recruitment process last month.

Professor Fang Liufang at the law school said the school not only offers the program of Chinese juris master and EU law master but also offers professional training program for lawyers, judges and prosecutors. It also offers research and consultancy programs for PhD students.

"All lecturers for the courses in Chinese law were chosen from CUPSL, and European law lecturers have been chosen from the best professors among the 13 European partners," Fang said.

The China-Europe School of Law, under the support of the Chinese Ministry of Education, is a joint effort between a con-



Serge Abou (middle), ambassador of the EC delegation to China, at the law school's launch.

Photo provided by China-EU School of Law

sortium of Chinese and European universities. On the European side, the Consortium is led by the University of Hamburg, while on the Chinese side the leading partner is CUPSL. The consortium is made up of another 14 Chinese and European partners, representing 11 EU Member States.



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Kanye West to shine at the Workers' Stadium

By Annie Wei

Kanye West, a leading rap and hip hop artist, is taking center stage at the Workers' Stadium next Saturday. It will be West's first time performing on the Chinese mainland – part of his sellout international tour Glow in the dark. The few other hip hop artists that have performed in the city include Black Eyed Peas and Common, who participated in the Chaoyang Music Festival two years ago.

Given West's stature as a musician, it is strange that news of his concert received little attention in the Chinese media when it was first announced last month. West is regarded as one of hip hop's elite and was named by *Time* magazine as "One of the 100 most influential people in the world." He has won 10 Grammy awards, and all three of his albums, *The College Dropout* (2004), *Late Registration* (2005) and *Graduation* (2007), have been named Best Rap Album at the Grammys. West is also a producer, having worked on tracks for Jay-Z, Talib Kweli, Ludacris and Alicia Keys.

West has said that he con-

siders his music medicine. "I want my songs to touch people, to give them what they need."

In China, hip hop is not as popular as it is in Western countries or as well-liked as pop music. But since West's concert is sold out – including the most expensive ones at 2,200 yuan – does this mean hip hop is developing a bigger following in China? Or are people merely curious about West?

"I think West is a good example for Chinese hip hop fans. He was born into a middle class family, which

means his hip hop didn't develop in the streets, which is the case for us in China," said Lucky, a hip hop fan and a member of a local entertainment agency. "He has mixed hip hop with popular music and that has allowed his music to go mainstream."

Lua, editor of *Inmusic* magazine, said West's work encompasses indie music, so she believes he has a broad vision of music.

Meanwhile, some young people have complained that tickets to West's show were too pricey. The cheapest sold for

200 yuan. "The tickets are too expensive for me, so I'd rather stay at home. I don't like his new album anyway, it's too electronic and almost like a pop album," Wang Laohan, a hip-hop fan, said.

But concert goers should prepare for an exciting event. West is known for putting emphasis on visuals in all aspects of his career – from his music videos to the packaging of his merchandise. Aside from performing in Beijing with a full band, he has also hired for the tour Madonna's choreographer and director, Jamie King.

The concert organizer said that West is performing in China because of his special feelings toward the country. He lived in Nanjing, Jiangsu Province, for a while as a child, when his mother worked there as a teacher.

The musician, however, is not making any media appearances or granting any interviews while in town, said his agency in China. West has had enough harassment from paparazzi in the US, an agency staff said. In September, he was arrested at the Los Angeles airport for hitting a journalist.

Event

CBD International Dragon Boat Invitation Game

The alumni of internationally renowned universities Harvard, Yale, Oxford, Cambridge and the Imperial College will compete in a friendly match that is sure to regale spectators.

Where: Gaobeidian Hu, Gaobeidian Cun, outside of Dong Si Huan, Chaoyang District

When: October 25, 9 am

Admission: free

Tel: 6546 4911

Nordic Documentary Film Festival

A focus point for this year's festival will be the social and political investigation of international news cases and to discuss the social and ethical value of documentary film art as a form of mass media. Among a wide range of films Nordox 2008 will be screening is "USA vs Al-Arian" by Norwegian director Line Halvorsen, who will be joining Nordox for a Q&A session.

Where: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: October 18 - 25

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 8459 9269

Pecha Kucha Beijing Volume No. 28

Pecha Kucha is a place for young designers to meet, network and show their work in public.

Where: The Orange Space, Sanlitun The Village

When: October 25, 4 -7 pm

Cost: free

Tel: 136 8132 0601

(By Zheng Lu)

Visionaire fashion and art magazine checks out China's fashion scene



The Visionaire party at the Temple Hotel

Photo provided by Fan Fei

By Gan Tian

Leading fashion and art magazine *Visionaire* came to town to check out the local fashion scene. Its co-founder and editor, Cecilia Dean, appeared at the 75th anniversary party of Lacoste and *Visionaire* 54 Sport at the Temple Hotel Tuesday evening.

The party, featuring many big names in the fashion circle, celebrated elements of contemporary fashion even as it was held

in a traditional Chinese temple. Lacoste shirts, sculptures, small windmills and copies of *Visionaire* magazine displayed in the courtyard created a trendy yet elegant atmosphere.

Showing up in a white sleeveless one-piece with William Hartmann, manager of Lacoste's global PR Operations, Dean commented on China's promising fashion industry. She admitted she did not know much about China's fashion

magazines, but that those she has seen had high quality pictures, reflecting the skills of China's photographers, stylists and models. "I can say they are playing a more and more important role in the world stage. Chinese fashion is growing up," she said.

Dean and her team also plan to bring to the country *V&V Men*, a male fashion magazine produced by *Visionaire*'s publishing house. She said she hoped to soon

collaborate with some of the top names in China's fashion circles.

Other big names in the international fashion industry, like British stylist Ray Pereira Lee and DJ Lady Bunny also showed up. Lee said most of China's fashion magazines were quite ordinary, "but that's the status of its readership," he said.

Visionaire is a multi-format album of fashion and art produced in exclusive and limited editions.

Spanish cartoons festival opens this weekend

By Gan Tian

A series of Spanish cartoons will be screened at the Madrid International Animated Festival (AniMadrid), which runs from Thursday to Sunday in Beijing.

AniMadrid is the world's most influential animated movie festival, with almost 800 pieces submitted to the festival every year. However, only 150 can expect to win an award "When talking about cartoons, we mainly judge them based on painting abilities, story lines, animation skill and expressiveness," Pedro Medina, the president of AniMadrid, said.

Though this is the first time AniMadrid has come to China, Chinese audiences are no strangers to Spanish cartoons. In the early 1980s, a Spanish cartoon TV series, Don Quixote, was imported and was well-received by local viewers. Zinkia, a Spanish cartoon company, known for its production Pocoyo, has already set up offices in Beijing, the only one it has outside Spain.

Medina said the Spanish cartoon industry has the same problem as that of China. "The government pays more attention to animated movies, but there is large space for animated TV series to fill," he said.

Get ready for Halloween!

By Zhang Dongya

Though Halloween is still a week away, the ghosts and witches have already descended upon the city for the holiday. You can see posters of them at pubs and bars around town, while shops have piled up on scary Halloween costumes, masks and other props. Halloween fun is just around the corner, so be sure to know where to go.

Happy Valley

It will be first to celebrate the holiday with a night carnival that starts tonight until November 2. They will hold a series of special events next week, like the Pop Music Evening, which will feature big stars such as Super Girl Li Yuchun. But the most anticipated part of the revelry is the scary "ghost house." Expect Happy Valley to turn eerie with glowing jack-o-lanterns and ghostly hangings.

Where: Happy Valley, Xiaowuji Beilu, Sanhuan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: October 24 – November 2, 6-10 pm

Admission: 60 yuan

Tel: 6738 3333

Wanda Film Club

On Halloween, the club will try to spook you by screening several thrillers. They will also invite some people to share real life ghost stories. A lucky customer will go home with a surprise Halloween gift.

Where: Wanda Film Club, 3/F, Wanda Plaza, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: October 31

Tel: 135 5295 0678



More Chinese are joining in the Halloween celebration.

Photo provided by Happy Valley

Admission: 60 yuan, which includes a mask and drinks. The first 30 reservations get 10 yuan off.

ClubZone

Its Halloween Screaming Tour will happen on October 31. A bus will take partygoers to four of Beijing's hottest clubs – from the West Gate of the Worker's Stadium through Sanlitun and the West Gate of Chaoyang Park to the Yen Party.

Where: Meet at the West Gate of the Worker's Stadium

When: October 31, 9 pm – 3 am

Admission: 200 yuan, which

includes transportation, the entrance fee to three clubs and the Yen Party ticket

Tel: 8591 1014

Tarot Cafe

Where: 10 Di'anmen Xida Jie (200 meters to the east of Lotus Lane), Xicheng District

When: evening of October 27

Admission: 30 – 50 yuan

Tel: 6404 1366

Mix Club

Where: Inside the North Gate of the Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang District

When: October 31, 10 pm – 3 am

Tel: 6506 9888

There are two shops in the city where you can purchase or rent Halloween costumes, masks and props. The shopkeepers say the prices are going up, so better do your purchases soon.

Beita Culture

Where: 808, building 7, Baihuan Jiayuan, Shuangjingqiao, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6844 4222

Guiwu Shijia

Where: 115, Part A, B2, 77th Street, Xidan Culture Square, Xicheng District

Tel: 13683179226

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyang@ynet.com

I want to learn Yunan or Guizhou cooking. Where can I get cookbooks for that?

If you are looking for a cookbook in English, I would recommend *Land of Plenty*, written by Fuxia Dunlop, a foreign correspondent for the BBC, who attended a culinary institute in Sichuan province. You can order it through Amazon.com. If you are looking for ones in Chinese, go to Xidan or Wangfujing bookstores' cooking section. You should find more than a good selection.

I am looking for good quality crab and fish. I have seen some at Shin Kong supermarket but they are too expensive. I wonder if there are any cheaper markets for fresh seafood.

There are quite a few wholesale seafood markets in the various districts. But the locals' favorite is Jingshen wholesale seafood market. Products there are fresh and affordable.

Address: Dahongmen Huatai Shuichang Pifa Shichang, 13-2 Shilou-zhuang Xi Jie, Dahongmen, Fengtai District.

Tel: 5122 8988

Web site: jshxsc.com.cn

(By Wei Ying)

Cab hotspots in Tongzhou

By Annie Wei

For a person who lives downtown, like Guomao or Sanlitun, it is easy to find an empty cab. Life, however, is harder for those who reside in suburban areas.

With more investments pouring into the Tongzhou area, there is an increasing number of expats setting up house there. Although Tongzhou has set up a convenient bus system, it is still difficult to get a cab.

Zhang Hao, who lives in Tongxian, said it took him 20 minutes to find a cab from his compound. Many *heiche*, or taxis without a license, also refused to drive him into town as they were afraid to get caught and fined. "Otherwise, the *heiche* ask for a much higher rate," Li said. It takes 45 yuan to go from Guomao bridge to Tongzhou Liyuan, but an illegal cab driver will likely want 60 yuan.

Many residents have discussed the cab problems on housing Web site forums. The online discussions have also included the Olympic Games' odd-even number traffic scheme and the new traffic control policy. Because of these new regulations, many residents complained they could not drive their cars to work and so were desperate for a cab.



There are fewer cabs in Tongzhou.

CFP Photo

Many drivers did not want to drive to Tongzhou because it was not cost-effective, said Wang, a cab driver from Shou Qi Group.

"It's hard for us to make money and it costs extra for gas to keep moving between Tongzhou and downtown without passengers."

Therefore, when a cab driver takes a passenger to Tongzhou, they tend to gather in certain places to wait for passengers back

to town. Below are the locations one can find a legitimate cab:

- The square of Wanyi department store at Tongzhou Beiyuan: There are five to ten cabs waiting there except during rush hour. One can find cabs late at night as well.

- West gate of Checuiping Bei Li: There are around eight cabs gathered there from 5 am to 7 pm.

- Geruiyaju real estate product: About three cabs can be found there from 6 am to 4 pm

- East Gate of Xinhualian Jinyuan, also called Yangzhuang Lukou: There are usually 5 cabs there, from 6 am to 1 pm.

- Along the subway (Jingjin express way): Many cabs gather there during the morning rush hour; it is much easier to get a cab compared to other locations.

Traffic regulations for Asia Europe Meeting

The Seventh Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) will be held in Beijing on Friday and Saturday, the authority have set up temporary traffic regulations from Thursday through Sunday.

The police will create one-way traffic lanes on the airport expressway on these four days. So to avoid getting stuck in traffic, know which areas to avoid and plan your travel route in advance.

From 8 am to 1:30 pm on Friday, vehicles heading downtown from the airport need to be rerouted from Jingcheng expressway or the second airport expressway.

From 4:30 pm to 11:00 pm on Saturday and from 8:30 am to 8 pm on Sunday, vehicles going to the airport need to go roundabout from Huanggang exit, Jingcheng expressway or the North Airport Road.

From Thursday, six sections of the highway around Tiananmen Square will be closed at different time periods. Meanwhile, the Beijing Bus Company will stop running four lines – Olympic Line 2, Sightseeing Lines 1 and 5 and Line Lianyun. All other buses will not stop at stations near Tiananmen Square.

In addition, from 1:40 pm to 3:40 pm on Friday, the Metro will not stop at subway stations Tiananmen Dong or Tiananmen Xi.

(By Venus Lee)

New spin on

Spanish artist gives the masters a modern b



Manolo Valdes

By He Jianwei

"Art will cease to be national the day when people live under the same climate, in the same houses and speak the same language with the same accent," Guillaume Apollinaire (1880-1918), a French poet, writer, and art critic, wrote in *The New Spirit and the Poets* in 1917.

Manolo Valdes is an artist who, whatever he does, always expresses an identity and energy all his own. But contrary to Apollinaire's view, Valdes is distinguished by how he draws freely from other artists.



Manolo Valdes' portraits and figures echo the form of Baroque Masters.

Seek inspiration from masterpieces

Valdes, born in Valencia, Spain, in 1942, brought his paintings and sculptures to the National Art Museum of China. Before the museum gate stands his large sculpture of *Meninas*, taken from a painting by Diego Velasquez (1599-1660), a leading painter in the court of King Philip IV of Spain.

The exhibition assembles Valdes's major works since the 1980s. This first solo exhibition in China includes a striking *Portrait con Marco* and an impressive group of three paintings of a woman on horseback. All the works show Valdes's journey and offer a window into contemporary Spanish art.

Valdes gets his inspiration from the masterpieces of art history, Fan Di'an, director of the museum, said last Friday at the opening ceremony.

The artist is always searching, whether in painting or in sculpture. It appears impossible to establish a reliable analysis of his art without having a good knowledge of the aesthetic evolution of Western art.

His portraits and works of the human figure echo the figures of Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640), a German Baroque painter, Velazquez, Jusepe de Ribera (1591-1652), a Spanish-born Italian Baroque painter and Henri Matisse (1869-1954), a French artist known for his use of color and his fluidic, brilliant and original techniques.

"But Valdes cannot and does not want to reproduce these works as they are. Starting from the standpoint of human existence, he rebuilds these forms after deconstructing them. These forms, familiar to the public, rise again in modern language through his work," Fan said.

The first step for Valdes is to select a masterpiece. "When I stand in front of a master's work, such as Matisse's, I can easily draw inspiration. It is the same as an artist drawing a landscape before the mountains and rivers. The difference is that I reinterpret the masterpiece," Valdes said.

In order not to copy the masterpiece, Valdes works in paint to, in his words, give his piece more energy.

The artist has an exceptional perception of mediums and knows how to use fabric and paper amongst others. Together with collage and drawings, these mediums create a striking impression of definite construction.

"His sculptures hardly limit themselves to certain forms. Whatever the material used – wood or bronze – whether it is a statuette or a monumental work, the sculpted forms are simple but concentrated," Fan said.

Valdes' works can be seen in public or open space, such as the squares in San Francisco in the US, Valladolid in Spain and Chenonceau in France. "Installed in an urban public space or in open space, his large sculptures give the impression of a marriage between classicism and modernity," Fan said.

Sightseeing as a way of study

Valdes began his training as a painter at age 15 when he entered the Fine Arts Academy of San Carlos in Valencia, where he would spend two years.

"I received my traditional training at the academy. We painted eggs as Leonardo da Vinci did in his beginnings. I did not find any satisfaction or interest in academy, so I quit," Valdes said.

After he quit school, Valdes went to Paris, where he saw Pop Art and abstract art for first time. "I saw an

American artist's work, a giant bird, a kind of Pop Art and I saw an abstract artist draw a painting using wooden stick with black paint. I started to doubt what I studied in the academy and found that art is free. I decided to create my own works," he said.

He studied how to paint as he traveled to different places and saw different exhibitions.

He first came to China three years ago. Ancient Chinese architecture inspired him a lot. "Although



Ariadna, 2007, wood and iron

Half his life on a pop Art team

In 1964, Valdes along with Rafael Solbes and Joan Toledo formed the artistic team Equipo Cronica. Their artistic experimentation and research made significant contributions to Spanish art the second half of the last century.

During its 15 years, the team built a body of work based on taking apart masterpieces of the past and reconstructing them – tearing them apart and later including the fragments in new compositions.

The team approached painting with the distancing characteristic of pop art. They relied on quotations, parodies and collages of ultra-codified, emblematic images.

It was the 25th anniversary of the death of Rafael Solbes in 2006, and the consequent dissolution of Equipo Cronica.

In the work done in this second half of his life, Valdes has preserved all of Equipo Cronica's irony, its ability to create strong visual imagery that can be easily understood but hard to forget.

"I like to say that I am a repertoire artist, the singers who prefer to stick with certain songs because they can perform them better. The repertoire of my images, the images I always fall back on, are the series of Equipo Cronica, which are never finished," he said.

the classics

Center stage

body

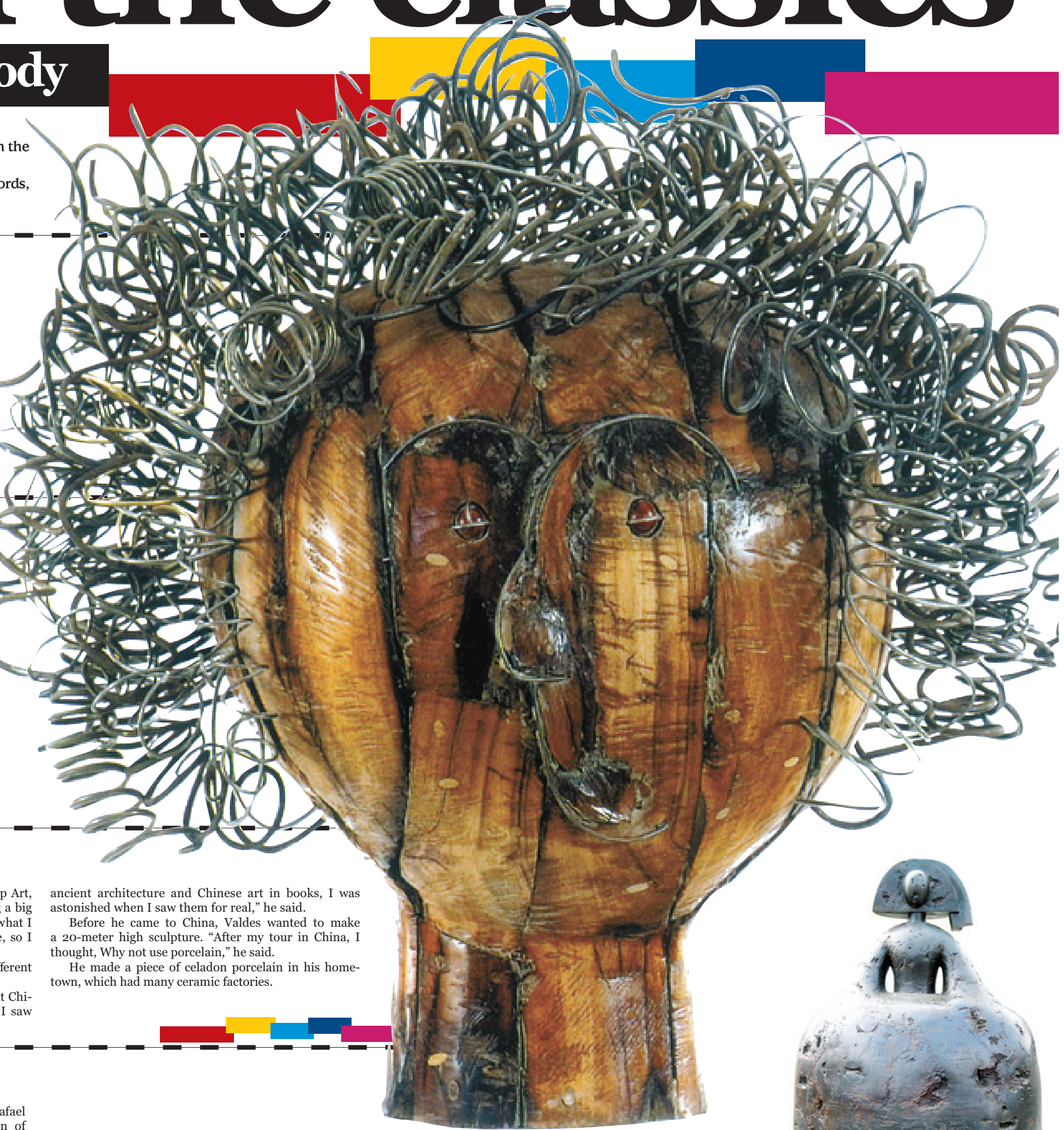
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ancient architecture and Chinese art in books, I was astonished when I saw them for real," he said.

Before he came to China, Valdes wanted to make a 20-meter high sculpture. "After my tour in China, I thought, Why not use porcelain," he said.

He made a piece of celadon porcelain in his hometown, which had many ceramic factories.

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Albertina, 2007, wood and iron



Reina Marina, 2007, bronze

Photos provided by National Art Museum of China

Manolo Valdes

First Solo Exhibition in China

Where: National Art Museum of China,
1, Wusi Dajie, Dongcheng
When: Daily 9 am – 5 pm, until Novem-
ber 13
Admission: 20 yuan
Tel: 6400 6326

Editors: He Jianwei Li Jing Designer: Yang Gen

BEIJING TODAY

The Bitter-sweet Mystery of Marriage

By Charles Zhu

The musical "Our Town" sings "Love and marriage, go together like a horse and a carriage." But, as Duncan Campbell sang, "Marriage is a wonderful invention; but, so is a bicycle repair kit."

What is the purpose of marriage? As more than 40 percent of marriages end in divorce and gay marriage has become such a political issue in the US, more and more people are asking this question.

Susan Squire tries to explain the mystery from a historical perspective in *I Don't: A Contrarian History of Marriage* (258pp, Bloomsbury, US \$25.99). What we understand as "marriage" originates from warring historical efforts at regulating procreation, taming down sexual lust – female lust in particular – and celebrating matrimonial union and romantic love.

In Susan Squire's opinion, the book of Genesis contains two verses referencing marriage. In Genesis 3:16, it says "Your husband ... shall rule over you." Genesis 1 offers a version of the creation story in which God creates man and woman at the same time and orders them to "fill the earth and master it." Squire

brings into bold relief the rationale for marriage in the earliest times: you must control your women, or the women will control you.

Starting from this exposition, Squire guides the reader along an interesting tour of the marital history from the biblical Israelites' practice of matrilineal descent and polygamy and the ancient aristocratic Greek system of the gold, silver and bronze wives. The ancient Greek politician Demosthenes eloquently exposes the nature of marriage as he deems it: "We keep mistresses for our delight, concubines for the daily needs and wives so that we may breed legitimate children and have faithful housekeepers."

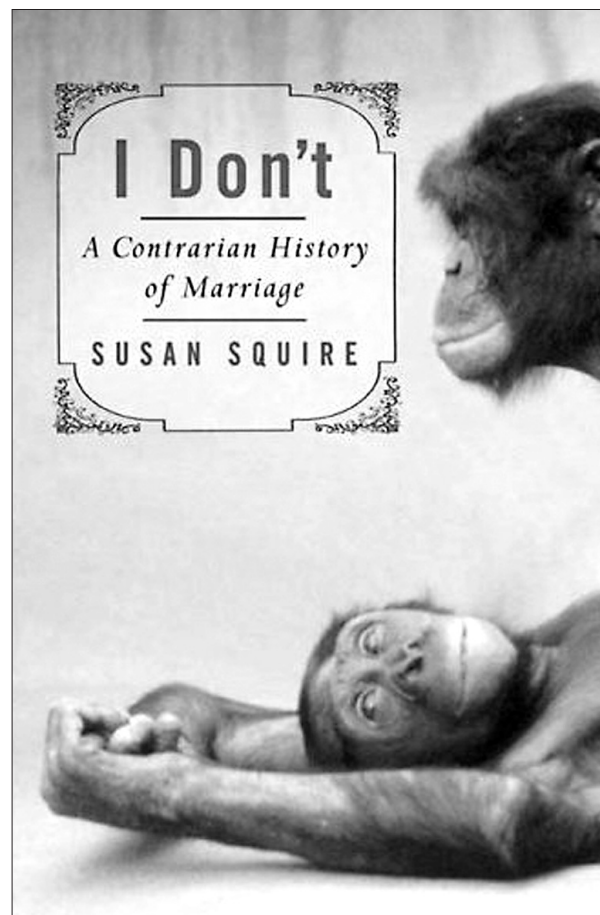
The Romans practiced a form of trial marriage that asked for no transfer of authority or property and Roman women were given enormous sexual freedom. Squire has no intention to put any blame on the Romans for the fall of the Roman Empire because of their loose ways. She touches upon the attitude of the Christian church that marriage was a "lust containment facility," and put love of God ahead of love of family just as Tertullian,

the formidable Roman Christian theologian, declared that "woman is the gateway through which the devil comes."

During the Dark Ages, the church tried to control every aspect of sex and marriage, working out punishments for seeing one's wife naked, giving one's husband an aphrodisiac or having sex on a Wednesday, Friday or Sunday. The church was so keen on loveless, sexless, unhappy marriages that it gave rise to resentment among the aristocracy that stood for courtly love and would not be bothered by the church in their habit of love.

A revolution was well under the way when Martin Luther, a monk who believed that the attitude of the church gave rise to corruption, rose up to declare the fallacy of celibacy. He, by his own happy marriage, boldly declared a war on the church and introduced a new era of marriage in which love, sex and faithfulness were exalted and people began to marry for love.

However, we can neither idealize marriage nor life itself. It has twists and turns, ups and downs. Love and marriage are indispensable from each other.



Keeping with the beat of Western pop

欧美流行音乐指南

[A-K]
A GUIDE
TO
WESTERN
POP
MUSIC

王小峰 章雷 主编
Wang Xiaofeng Zhang Lei

By Wang Yu

Most of today's music has its roots in blues and country with a splash of rock and roll. The tunes of Elvis Presley and the Beatles are an important part of Western history.

To guide the new listener, *A Guide to Western Pop Music* (1,380pp, Nanjing University Press House, 188 yuan) was compiled by a crew led by top bloggers Wang Xiaofeng and Zhang Lei. Its first edition was published in 1999, when computers were scarce and the Internet was a luxury.

The book aids those just

entering the Western pop music scene. To longtime listeners, it is a dictionary or database that provides a fine reference when writing music reviews or related articles.

"Many people were caught in an information gap at that time. They did not know anything about the records that they were holding or anything about the artist. They did not even know what type of music was on the CD. I thought there needed to be a book to assist music lovers," Wang Xiaofeng wrote in the foreword of the 2008 edition.

The names of singers,

bands and record labels in the book are arranged in alphabetical order. In the enlarged edition, the writers also have corrected old mistakes and added 300 entries.

Don't be afraid of the page count – this book is full of information but easy to read and full of pictures. The writers also note each artist's famous tracks to help beginners place them in the music scene.

Many musicians rose and fell the last few decades, and their stories are an attractive component of Western pop culture. The book has brief

biographies of artists and explanations of musical and social phenomena such as "Britpop," "British Invasions" and "New York Local Scenes." It is a valuable companion for professional music editors and journalists. Their chronological presentation acts as a road map of social change in Western countries.

"I hope this book can illustrate how mass culture is captured in music and the controversial relationship between art and business. It may help the musicians who work in China's industry," Wang said.

Timezone 8 booklisting

Timezone 8 Limited is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design. This week, it lists its three top-selling design books for *Beijing Today* readers.

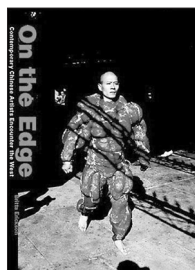
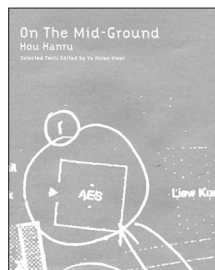
On the Edge: Contemporary Chinese Arts Encounter the West

By Britta Erickson, 168pp, Timezone 8, US \$32.50

The works in *On the Edge* represent the reactions of leading Chinese artists to encounters with the West.

Some are contemplative musings on the space that opens up when one culture is observed from the vantage point of another. Others are more

confrontational comments on Western dominance in the process of globalization. Some take strategic advantage of an outsider position.



On the Mid-Ground: Hou Hanru

By Yu Hsiao-hwei, 281pp, Timezone 8, US \$35

Hou Hanru is undoubtedly one of the most dynamic and innovative curators and critics on the contemporary art scene today. Known for such ground-breaking exhibitions as *Cities on the Move* (co-curated with Hans-Ulrich Obrist), *Out of the Center*, *Parisien(ne)s* and the Kwangju Biennial in South Korea, his work addresses questions of globalization and

identity, understanding contemporary art practice as it exists beyond geographical and regional boundaries.

Synthetic Reality

By Els Van Der Plas, 112 pp, Timezone 8, US \$26

This book is the most comprehensive media-based or video installation show of its kind in China. Organized by artists instead of curators, it provides true insight into the processes, theories and ideas behind China's contemporary video artists.

(By He Jianwei)

By Zhang Dongya

Equestrianism is becoming a popular recreational activity among ordinary folks as it accentuates the beauty of the solidarity between a horse and its rider.

Autumn is a wonderful time of year for horseback riding, and ranches around town are bustling with business. But no matter how good or bad your riding skills are, proper equestrian wear and equipment are necessary to protect your body and to enjoy the experience.



Cowboy boots for women, 390 yuan, at Ematto

Gallop into the sunset in style



Stirrup, 130 yuan, at Ematto

Equestrian helmets and hats

A helmet is vital and will protect your head in a fall. A good helmet should have a padding injected with millions of gas bubbles in many layers. When you fall, the bubbles burst, taking much of the impact. The outside shell of the helmet offers protection against rocks and branches, and heaven forbid, horse hooves.

Helmets come in various styles but few color choices; most are black. There are airproof ones and breathable ones with holes on the cover. Airproof helmets are ideal for autumn and winter because they will protect you from the cold wind. Since horseback riding will make you sweat, however, you might prefer the breathable helmets, which can also be used in cold weather.

If you want to be fancy, you can choose to wear a cowboy hat. It is lighter and the broad brim can block the sun's strong rays.

The most important thing is to make sure your helmet or hat fits snugly with the tie comfortably tight. If your hat is loose, it might slide down your face and block your sight – which is something you do not want to have happen during a ride.

Safety vests

Protective vests can significantly reduce the impact of a fall, so if you have a spirited horse or plan to do a lot of jumping, consider getting one.

Since vests retain heat, the inner lining is designed to help ease discomfort, especially on a summer day.

Chaps

For common riders, jeans are enough but chaps are necessary to protect your legs, especially under the knees.

Chaps are made of leather or suede, and can be fixed by zips or hooks and loop fasteners. They come in various styles and colors, and some are very fashionable. The frilly half chaps, which

mainly cover the calves, come in contrasting color fringes that are popular among girls.

Long chaps are also popular. They can stretch to the buttocks and the full-length zips on each side will make them easy to put on and take off.

Professional equestrians prefer to wear riding breeches, and to them, good or bad breeches can affect the ride. There are different kinds of breeches, some with suede patches inside the knees, and others with the suede running from the knees all the way up and around the backside.

Footwear

Boots are essential for horseback riding. Classic riding boots come high enough up to the leg to prevent the saddle leather from pinching the riders' legs. They always have sturdy toes to protect the riders' feet when on the ground, and distinct heels to prevent the feet from sliding through the stirrup.

There are knee-high leather boots and ankle-high paddock ones. Short boots should be combined with chaps.

Riding boots are made from all kinds of materials, including cowhide and pigskin. Synthetic leather, vinyl and other materials are more common and less expensive.

Choose leather heels but not rubber ones, and never wear sneakers when riding since they can be slippery in the stirrups.

Other apparel

Riding gloves are necessary even in hot weather. They can prevent the saddle from pinching the hands.

In windy weather, especially in spring and autumn in Beijing, wind glasses are useful to protect your eyes from the wind and sand.

A horsewhip is indispensable for equestrian sports. It is usually made of leather. Some are partly handmade with colorful nylon ropes in a helix.



Saddle, 6800 yuan, at Ematto



Cowboy hat, 290 yuan each, at Ematto

Where to buy

Beijing Equidorf Saddlery

It is the largest local company specializing in the research, development, manufacture and sale of equestrian articles. It supplies riding apparel from international brands like USG, Cavallo and Textan, as well as its own brands like Equidorf and Honovo. As a supplier for the Olympic Games' equestrian events, it has earned a reputation for making quality products. Where: 89 Dongwei Bei Lu, Chaoyang District
Tel: 8431 0600
Open: 9 am – 6 pm

Ematto Sports Goods

Ematto, based in Shanghai, opened its Beijing branch this August. It sells a complete range of equestrian goods at an affordable price. Where: Building 1, Huitong Jiayuan, Chaoyang District
Tel: 6498 6193
Open: 9 am – 5:30 pm

Wanjiangxiong Saddler

Founded in 1994, this relatively old shop sells horseback riding equipment. It specializes in handmade products, and attracts customers who prefer made-to-order goods. Where: Jia 26, Nan'erhuan Xi Lu, Fengtai District
Tel: 6928 7424
Open: 9 am – 6 pm

Photos by Jason Wang

The kitchen of football champions

By Lily Lee

Spain, the reigning Euro football champion, is not only a country good at sports, but also at cooking. The country is undoubtedly one of the best kitchens in the world, and food lovers in Beijing can now sample Spanish tapas and rioja, or red wine. To love Spanish food is to eat healthy without missing in on the fun.



Tapas's wonderful interior decor

Serving Spanish food and happiness

Cozy orange lighting, a big black bull sign on the wall, colorful windows, light Spanish classical music, people laughing and taking pictures of each other ... Tapas is a scene taken straight out of Spain. "If you want real Spanish food, you come to Tapas. We serve happiness here, you know!" Carlos Chordi, the chef-cum-owner of the restaurant, said.

Born in Pamplona, the Spanish city famous for its annual "Bull Run," Carlos began cooking Spanish food when he was 24. He trained at two famous hotel schools in San Sebastian and Bilbao, two cities in the Basque area of northern Spain. For customers new to Spanish food, Carlos suggests starting with tapas, which are light Spanish snacks or appetizers. "For two persons, you can order four to five tapas and some wine," he said, "This is the cheapest way to know Spanish food." If you get lost in the menu, you can order the special Tapas Plate, which offers eight kinds of classic tapas for 99 yuan.

You can find 70 kinds of wines at Tapas - 90 percent of them imported from Spain. If you are not sure what to get, just look for Carlos. "A white Rueda, Rioja or Penedes go best with seafood," he said, referring to three types of Spanish wine. If you prefer red wine, he suggests a Rioja or a Ribera del Duero.

"We change our menu every six months," Carlos said. He said that without new dishes, it is hard to keep clients content. Friends at the two hotel schools in Spain keep him updated on developments in Spanish food.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, you can enjoy live band performances of Spanish music from 7:30 to 10:30 pm.

Tapas

Where: F2, Na-Li Minimall, Sanlitun Bei Jie, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 10 pm

Tel: 6417 8038

Cost: 120 yuan per person



Cream bread, 25 yuan for two pieces



Sizzling Garlic Prawns, 49 yuan, at Mare

"The 30 Best Tapas"

Mare draws its name from the Latin word for "ocean." The food here has strong Mediterranean influences, plus the owners play Spanish music to get diners in the mood for food.

The owner, Wang Lei, is married to a Spaniard and considers herself wedded to the cuisine. Every time she visits Spain, she records videos of local chefs at work and brings the tapes back for her staff to study. Sometimes, a Spanish chef is invited to come to Beijing to give Mare's staff pointers.

"We prepare the food with heart and enjoy the work," Gao An, a 25-year-old chef, said. Manager Pan Jun is confident about their impeccable service. "We know our old customers by name. Eating at Mare is like coming home," he said.

Mare has now on offer "The 30 Best Tapas," which are light snacks or appetizers. Sizzling Garlic Prawns and Grilled Baby Lamb Chops are must-tries. Take the garlic prawns, for example. The prawns are saturated in French spices, then fried with garlic and chili in olive oil. The chef will serve the course when the prawns are about 80 percent done. The still sizzling olive oil will continue cooking the prawns even as it is sitting

on your dining table. With its strong garlicky and gentle spicy taste, the dish is mouthwatering.

Chicken Croquettes and Roasted Spicy Red Pepper with Cod Stuffing are also among Mare's bestsellers. If you prefer a big meal, the traditional Spanish seafood rice or pasta Paella and Roasted Sucking Pig are recommended.

Mare also provides a 66 yuan per person and a 88 yuan per person business set lunch before 2:30 pm from Monday to Saturday. Appetizers, main courses and desserts are included. You also get free tea or coffee, and special prices for wines and other beverages. A soft drink or juice is 15 yuan, down from the original 25-30 yuan, while a glass of wine is 20-25 yuan, down from the regular price of 40-50 yuan.

Mare Xindong Branch

Where: 14 Xindong Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 10 pm

Tel: 6417 1459, 6416 5431, 6415 6186

Mare CBD Branch

Where: Ground Floor of E-Tower,

Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 10 pm

Tel: 6595 4178, 6595 2890

Cost: 150-200 yuan per person



Compared with Tapas, Mare is more like a casual Spanish cafe.

Photos by Lily Lee

Protecting and spreading your work, some rights reserves

By He Jianwei

The spread of the Internet has made it increasingly easy for casual users to publish their feelings online, post pictures and upload their own music and videos. While people own the copyright of their own works, relinquishing just enough rights to spread them can be legally tricky.

The Creative Commons (CC) family of licenses was created to fill in the gap with an author to user contract, and now CC is spreading through China in the fields of law, the arts and technology.

Creative Commons China Mainland opened its second CC Photography Contest on October 1 to promote its new license to Chinese creators. Interested photographers can submit works until December 1.

CC will expand to Hong Kong Sunday with a localized version of its licenses, making the island its 48th jurisdiction.

History

CC is a non-profit organization founded in 2001 in the US that provides free tools, including its Creative Commons licenses and software to help authors, artists, composers and other content creators to select a proper license and tag their creative works with the appropriate freedoms and restrictions.

CC tools change the traditional "All Right Reserved" statement of copyright into a voluntary "Some Rights Reserved" statement. The organization advocates and encourages legal sharing, remix and reuse of creative works.

The first version of the CC licenses was released in December 2002. To make local CC licenses available in various jurisdictions, CC has developed an offshoot of its licensing project, Creative Commons International (CCI), which ports jurisdiction-specific CC licenses. "There are already 47 jurisdictions with a local version of the CC licenses," Wang Chunyan, project leader of Creative Commons China Mainland, said.



Athletic Boy on the Street of Caochang in Beijing, by Liu Yinyi



Woman in Traditional Clothes as Reflected in a River, by Wang Mao

In Chinese mainland

Creative Commons China Mainland, the official local CC project for the Chinese mainland, was opened on March 29, 2006. It is maintained by a project team consisting of volunteers from various areas of expertise including law, the arts and technology.

"If you want people to use your creative works and prevent those works from being misused, [a CC license is the answer]. The CC license can not only guarantee respect for the creators, but also satisfies the needs of consumers," Wang said.

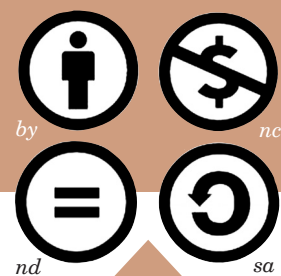
For the authors, "CC licenses serve as a recognized standard for copy, reuse and remix authorization compatible with the copyright law of each jurisdiction. Their application not only protects the rights of authors but also promotes subsequent distribution of their works," she said.

It is also a good way for the authors to promote their works. One of the first works released under the Creative Commons China Mainland license was an album. After its release, the album's Web host crashed and buckled under the traffic strain.

Users "can copy, reuse and remix worked as permitted by an author with reduced legal risk," she said.

The team organized various activities to promote the idea of a CC in the Chinese mainland, including salons, exhibitions and contest. In 2007, it initiated the first CC Licensed Photography Contest, which drew 4,000 participants who submitted 10,000 photos.

Photos provided by Creative Commons China Mainland



Core elements

CC licenses have four core elements. By varying combinations of the core elements, CC provides six sets of terms for public use.

Attribution (by) means the creator can allow others to copy, distribute, display and perform his copyrighted work – and derivative works based upon it – but only if the user gives credit the way the author requests it. **Noncommercial (nc)** limits use to noncommercial purposes. **No Derivative Works (nd)** prevents the creation of derivative works. **Share Alike (sa)** ties all derivative works to a license identical to your own.

The six varied sets of terms include by-nc-nd, by-nc-sa, by-nc, by-nd, by-sa and by.



NE•TIGER brilliant furs, the ultimate luxury

08/09 NE•TIGER fur series on display

NE•TIGER has another elegant lineup for this fall and winter. Its colorful fall and winter furs bring out the stylish lady's innermost appeal. As a top luxury brand, NE•TIGER pursues fashion through sex appeal, elegance and majesty in this season's exploration of fur. The 08/09 series of furs uses outstanding material combined with creativity and style. The lush fur traps and absorbs its wearer's favorite fragrance. The unique styles and limited production make NE•TIGER furs the perfect way for a woman to show her beauty, charm and character.

Zhang Zhifeng was behind the birth of NE•TIGER's fur line. The unparalleled craftsmanship follows the tradition of leatherwork with quality, exceptional decorations and special ornaments. Years of careful management have secured NE•TIGER's place as the emperor of fur fashion. It has been recognized by the "Purple Club" of the Fur Auction Association in Copenhagen, Denmark, as its first Chinese member.

A lady wearing NE•TIGER fur will play the protagonist in the new promotional movie Fur. The lens captures her exceptional style: mixing sex appeal with elegance, passion with shyness. All women cast in the film were selected by NE•TIGER. The setting is an NE•TIGER shop in Harbin that was decorated and reopened for the occasion. Shooting and make-up were handled in the front lobby and made for an attractive performance. But the contrast of light and shadow make clear that the real main character is NE•TIGER's 08/09 fur series.

Upcoming

Drama

Hunshi (muddling along) – Chinese version of Waiting for Godot
Where: Oriental Pioneer Theatre, 8-2 Dongdan San Tiao, Dongcheng
When: October 25 and 26, 7:30 pm
Admission: 50-280 yuan
Tel: 8408 5551

5

Friday, October 24

Exhibition

Quest – Xu Songbo Solo Exhibition

With Tang dynasty monk Xuanzang as the central figure in most of his paintings, Xu rethinks the development of contemporary art in this collection.

Where: 3818 Cool Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily except Monday 10:30 am – 6:30 pm, until October 24

Admission: Free

Tel: 8688 2525, 8456 6664

Memory • Fragments

– Fang Tao Solo Exhibition

Fang Tao, the niece of the famed artist Fang Lijun, regards herself as not just a painter but a researcher. She treats the creation process like research, looking at simple objects from different perspectives and trying to discover something new.

Reinventing the landscape

By Li Jing

Upon seeing the title "Landscape Topology," it is easy to assume the exhibit is about landscapes. This is not so simple.

Some pieces were created using materials associated with landscapes – rocks, parts of trees, soil; some seemingly teach viewers how to reobserve landscapes; some create fictional, metaphorical landscapes.

This is the inaugural exhibition of Magee Art Gallery (Beijing), an institution established under the auspices of the International Art & Culture Foundation (IAC) of Spain.

The gallery aims to promote Chinese contemporary art and fuel its exchange in Europe, with the goal of increasing recognition of Chinese contemporary art among the Western public and facilitating the spread of Chinese visual culture worldwide.

Magee also aims to build up new and emerging artists. The artists involved in this show are relatively young, with most of them born in the 1970s. The curator himself is not yet 30. "The reason for choosing me as the curator is partly due to the diversity in



character I bring at such a young age," said Sun Fengxiang.

Several of the exhibit's 10 Chinese attending artists have already held exhibitions at Magee's headquarters in Spain. Others will also have chances to showcase their art work in Europe, an official at the gallery said.

Where: Magee Art Gallery (Beijing), 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily except Monday 10 am – 6 pm, until December 6.

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9034

Nightlife

RandomK(e)

Where: Mao Live, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng

When: 9 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6402 5080

Movie

Valse avec Bachir (Waltz with Bashir)

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan Tel: 6553 2627

Where: Red Space, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily except Monday 11 am – 7 pm, until November 28.

Admission: Free

Tel: 138 1059 1004

Fantastic City

– Zhou Jirong Solo Exhibition

Where: Red Gate Gallery, Dongbianmen Watchtower, Chongwen

When: Daily 11 am – 6 pm, until November 16

Admission: Free

Tel: 6525 1005

6

Saturday, October 25

Exhibition

Once, you told me where it was – Li Zhuo Solo Exhibition

Where: Triumph Art Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily except Monday 10 am – 6:30 pm, until November 18

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9639

Imaginary Legend – Zhang Yuan Solo Exhibition

In Zhang's second solo exhibition, he constructs an imaginary world to parallel the real world. The works consist of several series in a variety of media such as paintings, installations and drafts.



Where: Platform China, 319-1 East End Art Zone A, Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang

When: Daily except Monday 11 am – 6 pm, until November 23

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 0091

Nightlife

88.7 Hit FM Party

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai

Xiyan, Xicheng

When: 9 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6617 3231

Goldie and MC Lowqui

Original B-boy, drum and bass pioneer, actor, graffiti artist, filmmaker, label owner and DJ – Goldie is known by many, for different reasons. Together with

MC Lowqui, Goldie will celebrate the 15th year of his Metalheadz record label.

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Courtyard (former site of the Duan Qirui Government), 2-3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

When: 9 pm

Admission: 80-100 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

7

Sunday, October 26

Exhibition

Booming? – Jin Jiangbo Solo Exhibition

All the works reveal scenes from the economic depression when foreign factories closed down, in Dongguan, Guang-

dong Province.

Where: Wall Art Museum, 34 Dong Sanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10 am – 5:30 pm, until November 2

Tel: 6564 8232

Between two worlds – Ouka Lee Solo Exhibition

Ouka Lee is one of the most prestigious Spanish photographers, partly due to her participation in the cultural movement

La Movida, which took place in Spain during the 1980s with the restoration of democracy. The exhibition is her first retrospective in China.

Where: Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily except Monday 10 am – 6 pm, until November 16

Admission: Free

Tel: 6543 2086

We love Beijing

– Joint Exhibition

A group of people, some famous models, some top photographers for fashion magazines, show through photographs how they regard Beijing. To them, Beijing is a city where love and confusion meet, and this draws them to the city and repulses them from it at the same time.

Where: TS1 gallery, 2 Jiux-

ianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Daily except Monday 10 am – 6 pm, until October 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6433 1588

Movie

U

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: 5 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627 (By Li Jing)

Stage in November

Concert

French Pianist Dana Ciocarlie Solo Concert

Who: Dana Ciocarlie
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: November 23, 7:30 pm

Admission: 30-380 yuan

Concert by the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra

Who: The Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra
Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, west side of The Great Hall of the People

When: November 4-5, 7:30 pm

Admission: 280-1,680 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

China Philharmonic Orchestra 2008-2009 Music Festival

Who: Conducted by Xia Xiaotang
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng

When: November 1, 7:30 pm

Admission: 30-480 yuan

Tel: 6559 8306

Drama

Aiba

Who: Directed by Daniel Stewart
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: November 19-23, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-1,280 yuan

Tel: 6835 4455

Dance

Myth and Fable

Who: Martha Graham Dance Company
Where: National Grand Theater Opera Hall, west side of The Great Hall of the People

When: November 27, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-800 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

Tibetan Riddle

Who: Yang Liping
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang

When: November 26-30, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-1,280 yuan

Tel: 6501 1854

Eating your way around jet lag

By Gan Tian

Wang Ying, a marketing director in a 4A advertising company, flies to San Francisco every two months for training and meetings. When he gets back from his trip, he has no time to rest and resumes work the next day. The constant shifting of the clock puts a huge strain on his body.

However, HealthDay News, a US-based paper, reported that new animal research suggests the body's biological clock, which regulates sleep cycles based on the rise and fall of the sun, can be overridden in extreme situations by an internal "food clock." This means Wang can adjust his time by eating specific food.

The department of neurology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center studied mice up to this May, but has yet to begin human trials. Clifford Saper, the head of the team, said they discovered some genes in mice which play a role in setting the body clock depending on the food clock. In other words, the specific genes ring the food alarm when it is time to eat.

With the case of Wang, he can change his eating pattern to Beijing time for three or four days before he comes back, and then adjust his biological clock to the local time. However, that makes San Francisco days a chore.

Emmanuel Mignot, director of the Stanford University Center for Narcolepsy, disagreed with the food clock hypothesis. "I would say that in most cells in your body, you have a clock, and most of the time, these clocks talk to each other. The body is always prepared to anticipate different changes that should happen at certain times of the day," Mignot told US News.

He thinks there's a clock in the skin to anticipate light and a clock in the kidneys to signal when to go to the restroom. "It's not just about being tired. It's pretty much every function that's regulated by the time of the day," Mignot said.

Chinese health circles also disagreed with the findings. Doctor Luo Shunrui from the Third Hospital of Beijing University has been focusing on the reports for a long time. "The food clock is kind of silent. However, food is more important than light. When the animal starts to ignore the master clock, then the food clock clicks in," he said.

Regardless of whether or not the food-clock theory pans out, Luo suggests people should work and study according to the real time around them.



CFP Photos

Connecting H₂O and headache

By Milo Lee

Headaches are a common enemy caused by a bad night's sleep, too much partying or a light cold. But few would guess that headaches can be caused by drinking water the wrong way.

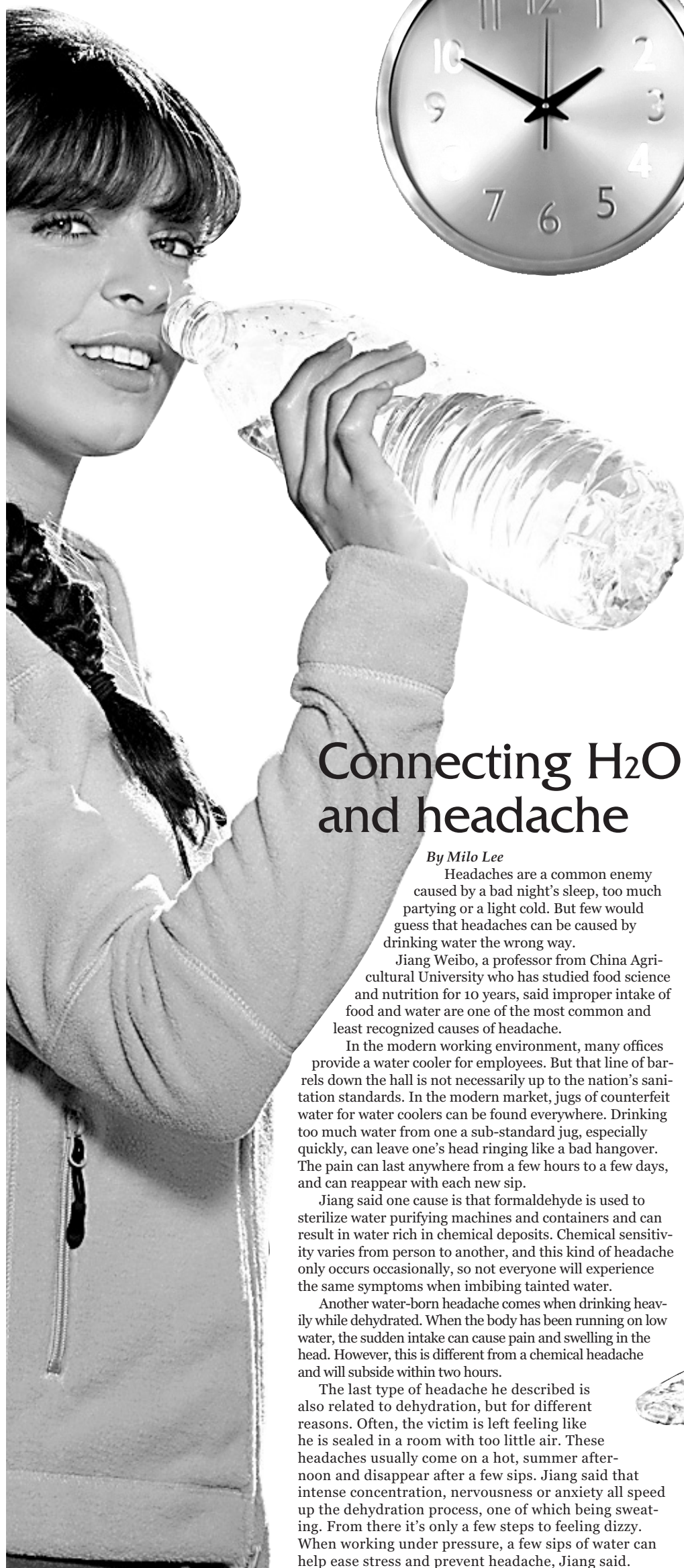
Jiang Weibo, a professor from China Agricultural University who has studied food science and nutrition for 10 years, said improper intake of food and water are one of the most common and least recognized causes of headache.

In the modern working environment, many offices provide a water cooler for employees. But that line of barrels down the hall is not necessarily up to the nation's sanitation standards. In the modern market, jugs of counterfeit water for water coolers can be found everywhere. Drinking too much water from one a sub-standard jug, especially quickly, can leave one's head ringing like a bad hangover. The pain can last anywhere from a few hours to a few days, and can reappear with each new sip.

Jiang said one cause is that formaldehyde is used to sterilize water purifying machines and containers and can result in water rich in chemical deposits. Chemical sensitivity varies from person to another, and this kind of headache only occurs occasionally, so not everyone will experience the same symptoms when imbibing tainted water.

Another water-born headache comes when drinking heavily while dehydrated. When the body has been running on low water, the sudden intake can cause pain and swelling in the head. However, this is different from a chemical headache and will subside within two hours.

The last type of headache he described is also related to dehydration, but for different reasons. Often, the victim is left feeling like he is sealed in a room with too little air. These headaches usually come on a hot, summer afternoon and disappear after a few sips. Jiang said that intense concentration, nervousness or anxiety all speed up the dehydration process, one of which being sweating. From there it's only a few steps to feeling dizzy. When working under pressure, a few sips of water can help ease stress and prevent headache, Jiang said.



Ancient trees turn for the season

By Zhang Dongya

As the capital of six Chinese dynasties, Beijing is home to countless cultural relics and historic sites, as well as thousands of ancient trees rich with the energy of life. Described as "green cultural relics" or "living fossils," they are witness to the city's history and its great changes. These trees signal the shift in seasons and times.

Many have been attracted by the beauty of the ancient trees. An entrepreneur named Lu Shun, 50, spent seven years photographing the city's old trees for *The Album of Beijing Ancient Trees*, published this July. The album contains photos of 400 ancient trees in the capital.

Autumn is heralded by the falling leaves, and the beauty of many trees are specific to certain seasons. The maple is most loved for its blazing fall colors while the pine stands fresh and alive in the dead of winter. With the capital well into autumn, now is the time to see the ancient trees of the season.



Lu Shun, photographer of *The Album of Beijing Ancient Trees*

Greeting Guest Pine in Fenghuangling

Yingkesong, the Greeting Guest Pine, is a symbol of hospitality. The pines on Huangshan Mountain, Anhui Province, are most famous, but the capital has many of its own. The Greeting Guest Pine in Fenghuangling is one of the oldest.

Located in the Fenghuangling Nature Park in Haidian District, it was planted in the Liao Dynasty over 1,000 years ago. Fenghuangling is rich in temples and joss houses, and the Greeting Guest Pine stands just beside the Guandi Temple of Che'erying village. The tree is 8 meters high and 3.5 meters around.

Its large branches stretch over the nearby avenue, the only road into the old village, so the pine welcomes in new people every day. Villagers regard it as a "spirit tree," which protects and blesses them.

The Fenghuangling is nicknamed the Little Huangshan Mountain of West Beijing. Many pines shoot out from the stones of the mountain on its north side, a feature rarely seen off Huangshan Mountain.

How do the pines live in the stones of Fenghuangling? According to legend, long time ago, a long-term laborer was ordered to plant pines on the mountain. The boss asked him to plant trees in every empty space, but he mistakenly heard the "kong" (vacant) as "feng" (gap), so he planted the pines in the cracks of the stones. Unfortunately, it was a harvest year with plenty of rain, and all the pines grew well.

Getting there: Fenghuangling is located in Haidian District. First head for the Summer Palace by subway or bus, and then take bus 346 to the end of its route.



Greeting Guest Pine in Fenghuangling



Visitors like to hang red strips of cloth with auspicious words on the Emperor Gingko in Tanzhe Temple.

Emperor Gingko in Tanzhe Temple

Ginkgo trees are one of the most beautiful autumn sights in Beijing. Old trees, especially ginkgos, are common in temples. Chinese monks considered it to be the "Buddha tree."

The Emperor Gingko is one of the most famous trees in Tanzhe Temple, the capital's oldest Buddhist temple.

Located to the east of the Pilu Pavilion, it was planted during the Liao Dynasty, some 1,000 years ago. Today, the tree stands 40 meters high, and 12 meters around. With a giant crown, it provides shade to half a square kilometer.

According to legend, the tree would grow a new branch whenever a new emperor took the throne during the Qing Dynasty. It was therefore given the name Emperor Gingko by Qing Emperor Qianlong (1736 - 1795). The other ginkgo tree planted directly west was to be the Emperor Gingko's match, a kind of "Empress Gingko." However, both trees are males and without fruit.

Red-cloth strips with lucky words are hung on the branches by visitors to Tanzhe Temple to convey their prayers for luck and health.

The oldest ginkgo tree is located at a primary school in Jukezhuang Village, Miyun County. It is more than 1,300 years old and was planted in the Tang Dynasty. The tree is 25 meters tall and 13 meters around.

Another famous ginkgo is located in Dajue Temple, which like the one in Tanzhe Temple, was planted in the Liao Dynasty. The 30-meter-high and 8-meter-around tree was called one of the eight wonders of the temple in a poem by Emperor Qianlong.

Getting there: Take subway Line One to Pingguoyuan Station, and then take bus 931 to the end of the line. On holidays, you can also choose a special line to the Tanzhe Temple at the Beijing Hub of Tour Dispatch to the West of Tian'anmen Square.

Photos provided by Lu Shun

Continued on page 21 ...

... continued from page 20

Nine-dragon Cypress in the Temple of Heaven

"While the US could recreate the Temple of Heaven if it wanted, it could not recreate the trees," former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said when he visited the Temple for the first time in 1971.

The Temple of Heaven is one of the largest temple complexes in China and is a typical example of Chinese architectural balance and symbolism. It was the site where Ming and Qing emperors offered sacrifices to the Gods and prayed four times a year.

The trees give the Temple its unique character. The Temple has lines of Chinese cypresses, junipers and scholar trees. About 3,000 of the trees are 300 to 600 years old, and some of the cypresses are more than 600 years old.

The Jiulongbai, or Nine-dragon Cypress, is one of the oldest in the city. Planted in 1420 during the Ming Dynasty, it is nearly 600 years old. Located on the northwest of the Echo Wall, it was planted before the temple was built. It is 3.8 meters around and 18 meters tall.

This tree is unique and invaluable as the trunk is covered with novel cortices. The trunk appears comprised of nine dragons coiling and flying, so it was named the Nine-dragon Cypress. In Ming and Qing dynasties, it was located on the emperors' route to the Circular Mound Altar and was given the title Nine Dragons Greeting the Emperor. It is unique in the world for its fancy cortex veins.

The Lotus Cypress planted to the

northeast of the Butcher Pavilion is more than 800 years old. It is 6.5 meters around and 9 meters tall. Viewed from a distance, the big wart on its trunk seems to be a lotus flower. The trunk is hollow and can fit in a man.

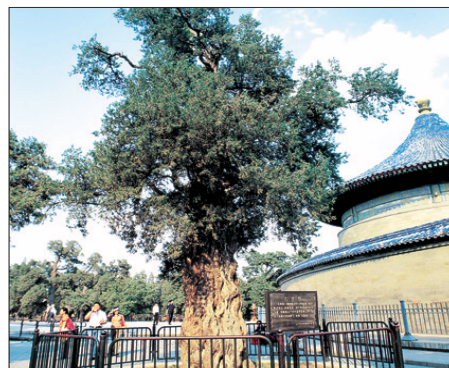
The Integrated Arborvitae and Scholar Tree is another well-known tree in the temple. The scholar tree budded from the crevice of arborvitae and they have grown together for 300 years. Since the arborvitae and scholar tree are the city trees of Beijing, people consider them brother trees.

Cypresses in various shapes can be seen throughout the temple. The Twin Cypress with two similar trunks, the Helix Cypress with a twisted trunk and the Lion Head Cypress, are both fancy trees as illustrated by their names. The renowned Chinese painter Xu Beihong painted many of the cypresses in the temple and praised them as one of Beijing's finest features.

Getting there: Take buses 6, 15, 17, 20, 35, 39, 54, 106, 120, 122, 803 or T8 to the Temple of Heaven.



King Cypress in Miyun county



Nine-dragon Cypress in Temple of Heaven

Other old trees

King Cypress in Miyun County

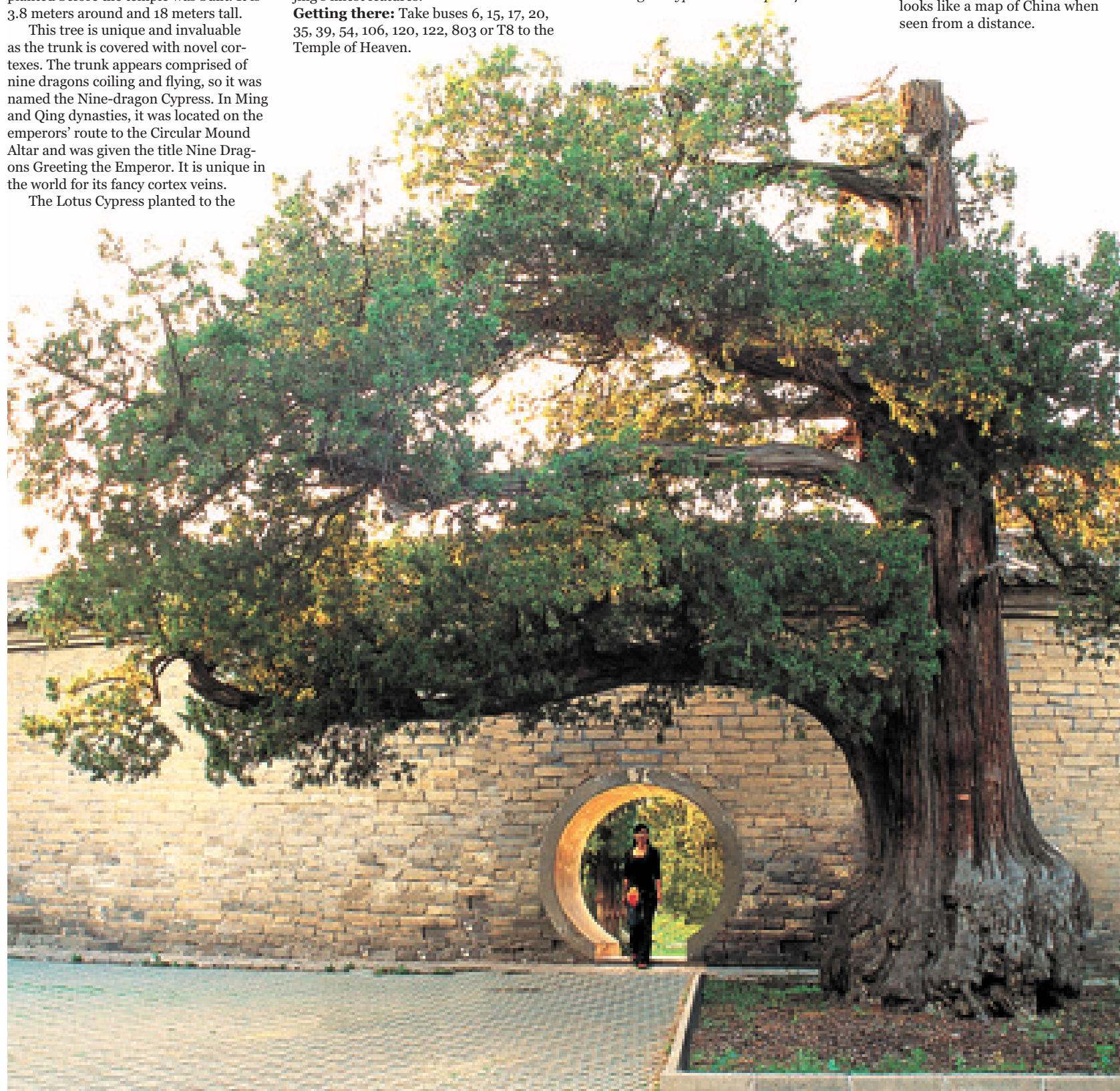
Planted some 3,000 years ago, it is 25 meters high and 7 meters around. The tree is documented as the oldest of its kind in Beijing.

Spinulose Tree in Tanzhe Temple

These two huge trees are in the Pagoda Forest outside Tanzhe Temple, where many Buddhists were buried. They are the divine trees of Buddhism and were planted in the Tang Dynasty some 1,300 years ago in memory of Sakyamuni.

Yuanbao Maple in Cherry Valley

Located in Cherry Valley of West Mountain, the Yuanbao Maple, or Mono Maple, from Qing Dynasty features a red color like leaves in deep Autumn. One Yuanbao Maple with a special shape looks like a map of China when seen from a distance.



Greeting Guest Cypress in the Temple of Heaven

Photos provided by Lu Shun

Do your staff work in economy class?

By Terence Sheppard

If you travel regularly for business, you are probably familiar with economy class flying. What is memorable about traveling economy? Absolutely nothing! Now there is a lot to be said for non-memorable flying. In fact, the fewer surprises the better. But why is it that we can travel thousands of kilometers by air and remember almost nothing?

The answer is because flying economy is usually a chore that we would rather avoid. We fly economy because we have to – not because we want to. Unfortunately, the experience of working for many companies is very similar. Because staff cost money, airlines reduce cost by employing as few people as possible, which means their interaction with economy class passengers is minimal. There may be nothing wrong with the economy class model as far as the airlines are concerned, but as a model for human resource management, it leaves a great deal to be desired.

Consider the economy class approach to employing people. You get interviewed on the way in, generally ignored while you are there and, if you are lucky, interviewed on your way out. Staff development is nonexistent or ad hoc, and you find it difficult to get any work done because your company skimps on the resources you need to be fully productive.

It is an unfortunate fact that many companies pay more attention to their

"It is an unfortunate fact that many companies pay more attention to their staff when they arrive or leave, than when they are actually working for them. Not surprisingly, employees in these organizations feel like economy class passengers – ignored, or worse, treated with contempt."

staff when they arrive or leave, than when they are actually working for them. In a 2006 survey of talent, the *Economist* magazine reported that companies in the US spend up to 50 times more to recruit managers on a US \$10,000 or greater salary than they spend on their further development.

Not surprisingly, employees in these organizations feel like economy class passengers – ignored, or worse, treated with contempt. Not surprisingly, therefore, they behave like economy class passengers. They complain to each other and stay on board for as little time as possible. High staff turnover, the scourge of many organizations across the world and particularly here in China, is not creating a productive workplace.

But it gets worse as some of those who leave are generally company assets. Furthermore, the employees who are left make the minimum amount of effort required to stay employed, and keep a careful watch on

the job market. The result is lower productivity, excessive staff turnover and a poor organizational culture. These are all key indicators that a company is heading for trouble, because ultimately the success of any business depends on the quality of its staff.

As competition intensifies, customers expect constant improvement to your products and services in order to remain loyal. Consequently, your company's need for creative and skilled staff, genuinely empathetic to customers and their needs, continues to grow every year. These people are in high demand and have no doubt as to their value in the job market. If you do not look after them, they will leave and take your company's competitive advantage with them.

In modern organizations, people – particularly their skills and knowledge – now account for up to half of a firm's market value. Today more than ever, if a firm is bleeding people, it is bleeding value.

Terence Sheppard is a business consultant with more than 20 years' experience in assisting managers all over the world create more successful organizations. Prior to becoming a consultant, he was a lecturer and practicing psychologist. Sheppard will be giving a one-off seminar on November 12 in Beijing. For further information please contact ellen.orlando@clarkmorgan.com.

ClarkMorgan Corporate Training
Beijing Guangzhou Hong Kong Nanjing Shanghai Shenzhen Suzhou Tianjin
www.clarkmorgan.com admin@clarkmorgan.com Free call: 800 820 5501



CFP Photo

Dining

Hainan Chicken Rice

The Hainan Chicken Rice is making an appearance at the Gloria Plaza Hotel this season.

It is a Southeast Asian dish most commonly associated with Malaysian and Singaporean cuisine. Named for its origins in Hainan cuisine, the version now found in Malaysia and Singapore still combines elements of Hainanese and Cantonese cuisines on top of culinary improvisations.

Where: Gloria Plaza Hotel Beijing, 2 Jianguomen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang District

Cost: 85 yuan subject to 15 percent service charge

Tel: 6515 8855 ext 2212

Cocktails

From October 25 to November 1, Centro bar and lounge at Shangri-La's Kerry Centre Hotel will present cocktails prepared by visiting mixologist Thierry Hernandez from the Plaza Athenee

in Paris.

Thierry has 23 years' experience at some of the best bars around the world. He also ranks among the world's most prestigious mixologists with a repertoire of drinks that include not only classic cocktails but also innovative ones.

Where: Centro bar, Shangri-La's Kerry Centre Hotel, 1 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6561 8833 ext 42

CBD Sunday brunch

On Sunday, lose yourself in an elaborate brunch at the Grand Millennium that brings together a variety of international cuisines. Enjoy free flow local beer and soft drinks at 248 yuan per person and free flow champagne, cocktails and wine at 328 yuan per person, subject to 15 percent surcharge.

Where: CBD restaurant, Grand Millennium Beijing, Fortune Plaza, 7 Dong Sanhuan Lu, Chaoyang District

Tel: 8587 6888

Thanksgiving dinner

On November 27, Crowne Plaza will present Thanksgiving dinner at a very appetizing price.

You can enjoy a mouthwatering spread of traditional Thanksgiving dishes like Boston Clam Chowder, Stuffed Tom Turkey, Honey Roasted Ham and of course, Pumpkin Pies. The buffet, which covers appetizers, soups, hot dishes, grills, desserts and one free soft drink or beer, costs 128 yuan per person.

For every 10 persons dining, one person gets a free meal and kids under age 12 eat free (max one child per paying adult).

Where: Crowne Plaza Beijing, 48 Wangfujing Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 6-10:30 pm

Tel: 5911 9910 ext 63



Hotel

Two-night package

From December 1 to January 31, 2009, Swissotel Beijing will be offering a special two-night package.

The package includes a half-day shopping concierge service, private limousine service to and from the airport, daily buffet breakfast for two, late check-out until 4 pm and an aroma oil massage. Room reservations and extra services are subject to availability and rates are subject to 15 percent service charge.

Where: Swissotel Beijing Hong Kong Macau Center, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie, Dongcheng District

Tel: 6553 2288

Aviation

Singapore Airlines' Cartoon Network lunch boxes

Since October 1, Singapore Airlines has been serving children's meals in specially designed lunch boxes adorned with popular characters from Cartoon Network shows.

Available on all flights seven hours or longer, the special lunch box contains children's all-time favorites such as burgers, chicken nuggets and spaghetti

with meatballs.

Tel: +65 6541 5880 (office hours), +65 9753 2126 (after office hours)

Web site: singaporeair.com

British Airways launches Metrotwin.com for London and New York travelers

British Airways has unveiled Metrotwin.com, a social media platform linking two of the world's most dynamic cities, London and New York.

Metrotwin is an online community that provides expert recommendations of the best places to visit in both cities and extends the idea of 'town twinning' to the level of restaurants, bars, shops, neighborhoods and other places. As the site grows, new features will be considered based upon feedback from the Metrotwin community. In the coming months this will extend to mobile phone applications.

Web site: ba.com

(By Sun Feng)

If you have any info for this page, please send it to lixiaojing@ynet.com

“Rob Kenny to pay Sofia”

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Gan Tian at gantian@ynet.com.

By Milo Lee

Four months ago, I was between jobs and light on rent, so I borrowed some money from my friend Sofia and promised to pay her back as soon as possible.

A month ago, Sofia called me to check if I was doing OK with my new job. During the conversation, she gently reminded me I had not paid her back. I could literally feel my face burning against the handset. “Sofia, I am so sorry about that. It totally slipped my mind.” I explained to her that I got caught up in my new job and settling into the new apartment, and paying her back got lost in my head.

Ordinarily, I take my promises seriously. Whenever I borrow money, not that I do it a lot, I pay the person back as soon as I can. Being added to the no-lending-money blacklist is not a nice way to make friends. But this time, only after Sofia asked me how much my new job pays and if I had saved some money in the bank, I remembered Sofia held a considerable amount of shares in my brand-new Philips rice cooker and the roof over my head. Embarrassed as I was, I told her I would pay her back the next day.

Valuing myself as a man of his word, I immediately went to an ATM. But when I pulled my bank card out of my wallet, another haunting memory suddenly went through my head: I just spent half of my savings on repairing my crappy laptop a week ago and the money left in the account would not be

enough to pay Sofia back.

I panicked, and then my phone rang. It was Ken, my college roommate. After I told him everything, he said he could lend me some money to pay Sofia and I could return his money whenever I wanted. Considering the situation I was in, it was an offer I did not have the luxury to refuse.

Feeling extremely relieved, I went online to enjoy a little quality time. But what had just happened still worried me. To remind myself not to forget the new loan, I changed my MSN signature to “Never dismantle the east wall to patch up the west wall.”

The next day, I received an email from my former English teacher that read: “Milo, I saw your MSN signature last night and I feel I have not taught you well. I can understand what you mean by ‘the walls,’ but that is not the correct English expression. Back home, when we talk about taking money or something from one person and using it for another, we say ‘rob Peter to pay Paul.’ Please keep it in mind and never say that thing about the walls again.”

Talk about bad luck, huh? Between forgetting to pay back my friend and getting a language lesson from my teacher, I was beat and that was when I decided never to write MSN signatures in English anymore. Well, except quotations from Shakespeare that tell people I am a man of good taste.

Or maybe just this new one: Rob myself to pay Ken.



CFP Photo

Blacklist

Beijing Today has come up with Blacklist, a new column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then this page is your new best friend. Watch for it each week.

Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please take a picture and send it to gantian@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Local professor: Zhu Shida

1. Chairman of the state administration

This concerns the misuse of a person's title. When we refer to the head of a state administration, we should say “director of the administration.” When we talk about a commission, it should be “chairman of the commission,” as only commissions have a chairperson. Administrations, on the other hand, have a director.

Similarly, I find people often say, the Minister of the Ministry of Finance or the Minister of Education. This is redundant and wrong. We should instead say, the Minister of Finance. I find that Chinese students also get confused with diplomatic titles. If we are referring to an ambassador, we should say the Russian Ambassador to China. But if we mean the embassy, we say, the Russian embassy in Beijing (in

the nation's capital, where it is located). You never say the Russian Embassy in China.

2. They can't help crying when they remember it.

The problem with this sentence is the choice of the verb. When you say “remember,” it is an action that lasts. When you say “recall,” it is an action that happens at the spur of the moment. So, it is not “ji de,” it is “ji qi.” The more idiomatic way to say it is: They can't help crying when they recall it.

3. Persons are benefited in the program.

When the verb “to benefit” is a transitive verb, it means “to do good to or for.” When it is an intransitive verb, it means “to gain advantage” or “to receive profit.” For instance, People benefit by advice. In this case, you will have to say: Persons have benefited from the program.

Native Speaker: Penny Turner

1. Chairman of the state administration

This is a case that is unique to China as it is a translation of a Chinese title. I agree with Professor Zhu's explanation on this one.

2. They can't help crying when they remember it.

I would correct this sentence to say, “They can't help but cry when they remember it.” Crying, in this situation, is an action that the people have almost no control over. The memory of an event, person or object is too painful, too haunting or the occurrence too fresh, that the people cannot help but cry when they remember that particular event, person or thing.

3. Persons are benefited in the program.

To express the idea of one thing benefiting from another thing, the sentence structure should be: “A benefited from B.” In this example, A is “persons” or people, while B is “program,” so the correct sentence should read: “People benefited from the program.” Learning English is about remembering sentence patterns and substituting the appropriate words to express a different idea. It requires memory work, yes, but that goes for any foreign language you want to learn.

Please take good care of The flowers and trees

By Tiffany Tan

The grammatically correct sentence should say, “Please take good care of the flowers and trees.” Whoever typed up the sign must have pressed the wrong key, replacing the “r” in care with a “k,” because the word got transformed into a baked product that has no business being in this sentence.

Since this is a park sign, if you want to be “in” on other English signs commonly seen at other parks, you can say: “Please preserve the environment.” This means not to disturb the natural state of the surroundings – which obviously refers to the flowers and trees around. Another option would be to write: “Don't pick the flowers,” since these dainty, colorful things are the most susceptible to becoming victims to rowdy children, overly enthusiastic lovers or naughty pets.

Also, saying “Please take



good care of the flowers and trees” sounds like you're inviting park goers to take an active part in the rearing of the plants, asking them to pick up a hose to water the flowers or stroke the bark of an aging tree.

If you are writing signs, also be careful that words in lowercase remain in lowercase or you can get into the same trouble our subject today did. When you press your keyboard's “enter” key, miracles can happen and the next line will appear like the beginning of a sentence when in fact it's still part of the line above. Computers may have already become super smart, but sometimes they can't even write a sentence.

Movie of the week

This is a tragic story about two families. In the end, the characters hold on to hope and their dreams to keep on going. Finding redemption and love amid tragedy has always been a staple of Hollywood movies, but *Rails & Ties* tries a refreshing approach and in the process tells a believable story. Joining versatile actor Kevin Bacon are Oscar award-winning actress Marcia Gay Harden and child actor Miles Heizer. Under the supervision of first-time director Alison Eastwood, daughter of Clint Eastwood, the stars deliver a stellar performance in this emotional movie.

Synopsis

Tom Stark is a train engineer, his wife Megan has breast cancer, and their marriage is falling apart. One day, a single mother named Laura commits suicide on the train tracks and his son Davey is put into foster care. Davey was in the car with his mother and escaped the train wreck, so he goes to Tom's house and confronts him about killing his mother. Instead of being kicked out by the Starks, Davey is taken care of by Megan, who is in her last days. The story delves into the quest for love when three broken souls come together and begin to heal.

Scene 1

(After Tom is suspended from his job, Megan tries to rekindle their relationship)

Megan (M): Well, maybe now that you have some time off⁽¹⁾, maybe we can go to San Francisco.

Tom (T): There's gonna be a hearing⁽²⁾. I have to be around to find out when.

M: Great. An official excuse.

T: No, it's not an excuse. If I'm absent at the hearing, I'll lose my job.

M: You're like sand, Tom. The harder I try to hold onto you, the faster you slip through⁽³⁾ my fingers.



Rails & Ties (2007)

Scene 2

(On the way back home from a medical center, Megan feels frustrated and gets into a fight with Tom)

T: What do you want from me?

M: I wanna know why we never had children. How about that?

T: I don't know, because we never found the time. We never found the time.

M: How could we have time? We moved into 10 different houses in 15 years of marriage.

T: I'm a trainman. That's what trainmen do.

M: That is not what trainmen do, that's what you did. That's not what trainmen do. It's not the rules for trainmen. How could anybody, anybody, have a child like that?

T: You got sick.

M: You're blaming me?

T: No, I'm not blaming anyone. It was just the way things worked out⁽⁴⁾.

M: I thought I had all this time to be a woman, to be a wife, and a nurse, and a mother. Then I found out I didn't. I just didn't. I don't have any time.

T: I probably would have made a lousy⁽⁵⁾ father, anyway.

M: I'm not afraid to die. But to think that I haven't lived, that terrifies me.

Scene 3

(Davey goes to the Starks' residence to look for an explanation for his mother's death, and ends up being taken care of by the childless Megan)

M: I wish we could keep him.

T: You promised one day.

M: He needs us.

T: We could get into a lot of trouble. It's against the law, and besides, that's like kidnapping.

M: So?

T: So if they find out that he was even here for one day, they're not gonna reinstate⁽⁶⁾ me.

M: I'm asking you to do this for me.

T: If I don't work the rails⁽⁷⁾, I'm nothing.

M: You're my husband.

Scene 4

(Tom is working on his railroad model in the garage and Davey walks in)

T: Wanna help?

Davey (D): Yeah.

T: Okay. Figure out⁽⁸⁾ where your passengers might want some shade⁽⁹⁾, put these trees there. All right?

D: So, what do you call your railroad?

T: I call it the Stark Special.

D: That's a nice name for a railroad.

T: Yeah, I like to think so. I like that engine you got there.

D: My mom gave it to me. She was a lot like Megan. She cooked a lot and cleaned. And she'd help me with my homework.

T: Yeah, I'm sure she was Mother of the Year.

Scene 5

(After Megan dies, Davey plays with the train model with Tom, and Tom decides it is time to fight for Davey's well-being)

T: You remember that lady, Renee?

D: The social worker⁽¹⁰⁾?

T: Yeah. I think we need to go see her.

D: Why?

T: Well, you can't hide forever, you know? And you need to go to school and be a kid again. Hey, listen, I want you to know that whatever happens, we're in this together⁽¹¹⁾. Okay?

D: Okay.

T: Okay. So you ready to see how that engine of yours does?

D: All right. Hit⁽¹²⁾ it.

T: Okay, pick up a little speed. There you go. Okay, back it off⁽¹³⁾ just a little. Yeah. Not bad. Not bad at all.



Vocabulary

- 1. Time off:** Time when you are officially allowed not to be at work or school.
- 2. Hearing:** A meeting in a court of law to find out facts about a case.
- 3. Slip through:** pass through quickly
- 4. Work out:** In this context, it means happen.
- 5. Lousy:** bad, terrible, awful
- 6. Reinstate:** give back one's job
- 7. Work the rails:** working on a train
- 8. Figure out:** to think about
- 9. Shade:** A shadow caused by trees or something else.
- 10. Social worker:** Someone from the government who helps poor, homeless or jobless people.
- 11. In this together:** to face whatever comes ahead together
- 12. Hit:** In this context, it means to press the power switch of the train model.
- 13. Back it off:** In this context, it means to slow down the speed of the train.

(By Milo Lee)